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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

December 19th—25th, 1985
Volume 20, Number 50

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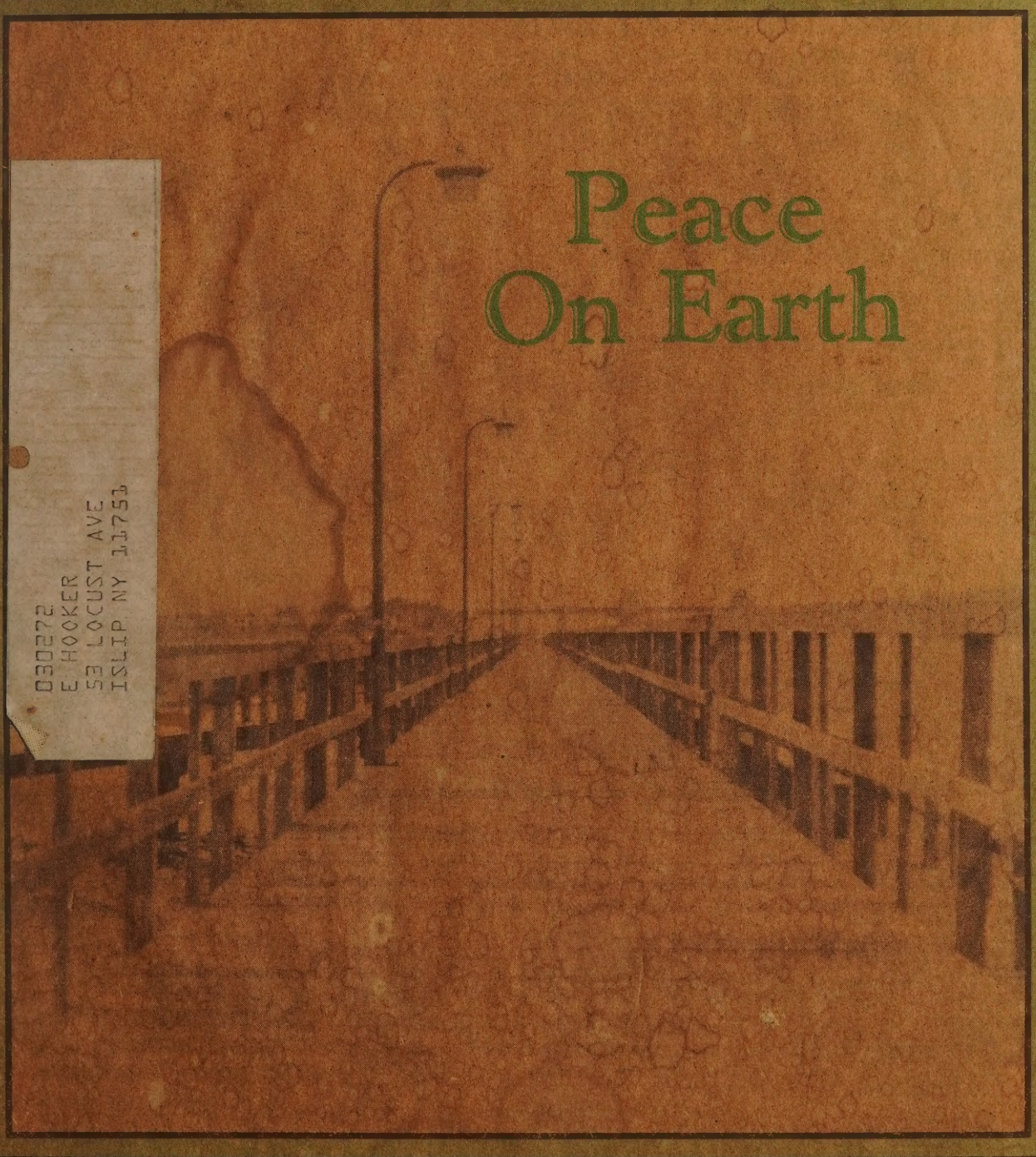

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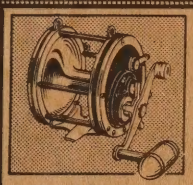

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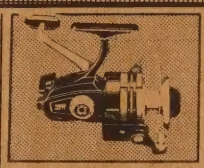
68 Long Beach	375 Yds. 50 Lb. Cap.	$32.99



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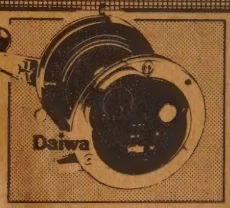

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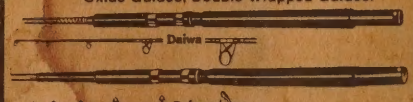

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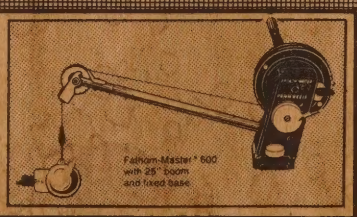

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 20, Number 50 December 19th, 1985

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ABOUT THE COVER:

A deserted Fisherman's Walk at Captree State Park provides a sobering reminder that another fishing season has come and gone. This week's issue puts the finishing touches on the 1985 season for us at The Fisherman as well. Publishing will resume with the January 9, 1986 issue. Until then, the entire staff of The Fisherman wishes all of our readers and advertisers a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Publisher: Richard Reina

Assistant to the Publisher: William A. Muller

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Contributing Editors: Pete Barrett, Russ Wilson, Tim Coleman

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Sigma	.0116	11.55	109,289
Ande	.0114	10.70	104,830
Stren	.0118	11.28	103,147
Maxima	.0136	14.80	101,881

All lines tested were tested in August 1984 by an independent laboratory to simulate actual fishing conditions. Samples were purchased from retail stores across the U.S.A. Tests proved that Trilene's tensile strength was superior. Tensile strength is based on line diameter and break strength. It is a measurement, in pounds per square inch (PSI), of the force required to break a line. Test results available upon request.

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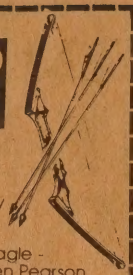

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BOAT/FISH FUNDS BEGIN TO FLOW

A Washington ceremony held October 1st marked the beginning of the return on investment made by the nation's boaters and fishermen and the industries which serve them. On that date, $125 million paid by U.S. boaters and anglers in federal user fees, began to be distributed to state agencies for fishing and boating enhancement. Of the total, $11.7 million (10 percent less 6 percent administrative costs of the National Fish and Wildlife Service) is earmarked as motor boat access funds, most of which will be spent on launching ramps and parking facilities.

Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) and Representative John Breaux (D-LA), both of whom played central roles in creation of the National Aquatic Trust Fund mechanism under which the user fee monies are allocated, were honored during the reception. Wallop said the success of the effort rests with American outdoor enthusiasts. "Their willingness to shoulder the costs of the program is why this new conservation initiative is occurring even as we work to reduce the huge budget deficit." Breaux praised boating and fishing communities and expressed appreciation to his colleagues in Congress for the support they provided this spring in repulsing an attempt by the Office of Management and Budget to divert the user fees.

NMMA Government Relations director Ron Stone called the program "a breakthrough for boating. Our earlier attempts to gain any boat facility funding were always thwarted by legislative maneuvers." Stone added, however, that the $45 million earmarked for state boating safety assistance programs—the other major portion of the aquatic Trust Fund—continued locked up in Congress. While the Senate has recommended full funding for the program in fiscal 1986, the House appears to be leaning toward the level of funding established last year ($13.65 million). "But odds seem to be in favor of that funding level to be increased for 1986," Stone said.

Enhanced boating and fishing will result from increased funding to state programs designed to address these needs. Allocations to the states began October 1, and range from approximately $400,000 for the District of Columbia to nearly $6,000,000 each for Calfornia, Alaska and Texas. The $125 million isn't a government handout, rather it has been generated by excise taxes paid by outdoor recreationists who have purchased fishing tackle, fuel used in recreational motorboats, electric trolling motors, fish finding equipment and import duties on sport fishing equipment and pleasure boats and yachts.

According to Carl Sullivan, president of the American League of Anglers and Boaters which worked to establish the return of taxes paid by the nation's boaters and fishermen, "The habitat improvement, the research and the improved recreational access these funds will provide will have a lasting impact and will enrich the lives of millions of Americans."

MERRICK ROD AND GUN CLUB BLACKFISH TRIP

On October 6th, the Merrick Rod and Gun Club held a blackfish trip on the "Seabird" out of Captree. Twenty-three members and guests enjoyed beautiful weather and a mixed bag of blackfish, sea bass, porgies and blowfish. Largest blackfish was caught by guest David Smith of Oak Ridge, New Jersey.

Fishermen interested in joining our Seaford Harbor based club should contact Bill Richko at (516) 826-7887.

LISTEN TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD

For fourteen years, Marine Associates, home-based in New Jersey, has helped people get their Coast Guard license to take passengers for hire. It is often called the "Captain's license," or, for the basic license that permits up to six passengers to be carried, the "six pack." A major part of the CG exam is the section on rules of the road. "When I was studying for my license," Marcia Strean, Director of Marine Associates, says, "I found that the time I had to be driving around, while my mind was on preparing for the exam, was frustrating. I wanted tapes of the Inland and International Rules to listen to as I drove."

Based on that experience, and requests from many of her customers, Captain Strean has joined with George J. Munkenbeck, Jr., to produce audio cassettes. As the author of texts on the rules, active with the Coast Guard and many years in the maritime training field, Munkenbeck is highly qualified to explain each rule so that exam questions about the rule will be able to be readily answered. Boaters who have at least 360 days on the water and are ready to study for the Coast Guard exam will find this addition a big boost on their way to being "Captain."

Since you have to know the rules thoroughly and learning through the eyes as well as the ears is helpful, the latest edition of *Navigation Rules for International and Inland Waters*, by Munkenbeck and Strean, is included with the tapes.

If you are going for the Coast Guard license for coastal or offshore waters,

you will get tapes for both Inland and International Rules for $25.

Send a check to Marine Associates at P.O. Box 217, Teaneck, NJ 07666 or call (201) 837-8188 for charge card service and immediate shipment. Your satisfaction is guaranteed, with arrangements for future rule changes included in the bargain. Strean adds, "We have some laughs in the tapes to lighten the learning."

SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE BIG WINNER AT YAMAHA GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Good sportsmanship was the real winner in last week's Yahama/Military Bass Grand National Championship when Ben Lee, Cayce, SC, returned $50,000 of his $100,000 first place prize money to be shared with his Division 1 competitors. He caught 11 bass weighing 15 lbs. 8 oz. to win.

Lee's action clearly shows there are anglers who place competition and good sportsmanship ahead of personal gain. Prior to the tournament, the anglers agreed that they would share half the prize money if they won. All four divisions chose to follow suit.

"The sharing of the prize money has, to my knowledge, never been done before," said Ham Hamberger, Yamaha division manager. "It says a lot about the quality of the people who have been fishing this tournament circuit."

HARLEY BOAT CORPORATION SETS UP NEW DEALER/DISTRIBUTOR

Oceanside Marine Boat Sales, Inc., located at 565 Bothner St., Oceanside, NY, (516) 764-BOAT, has become the New York Metropolitan Area Distributor for the Florida Boatbuilder's line of Sportfishermen.

Harley boats are 100 percent Kevlar, the super-lightweight, super-strong material used in aircraft, bullet-proof vests, and as reinforcements in 'fiberglass' boatbuilding.

Models are available from 27 to 42 feet and will be stocked by the dealer beginning in December.

Harley Boats have enjoyed a strong following in Florida nd due to factory expansion; they will now be available in our local area exclusively through OMBS. Advertised in Boating Magazine, initial interest in the NY Metro Area seems to be very encouraging, with the factory turning over nearly 400 inquiries into the purchase of new Harleys.

Harley advertising claims are quite remarkable and both factory and dealer state categorically that no "literary license" has been taken. OMBS will have a company 34' sportfisherman in the water for the 1986 season. The new boat, called THE SORCERESS, will be a charter fisherman, set up for overnight Canyon trips to 1/2 day charters for bluefish. With the speed of an offshore racer and full foam flotation, The Sorceress intends to allot from 3 to 4 hours more fishing time (on an average Canyon trip) than most other charter boats in our area.

NEW TITLES ADDED TO SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS/3M SPORTSMAN'S VIDEO COLLECTION

Scientific Anglers/3M has added five new titles to its "Sportsman's Video Collection" of instructional hunting and fishing tapes. This brings to 28 the number of titles now available in this popular outdoor series. The new ones include:

Building Your Own Rod, with Dale Clemens. 1 hour, 40 minutes. $79.95.

Creative Rod Crafting, with Dale Clemens. 1 hour, 50 minutes. $79.95.

Introduction to Duck Calling, with Flip Pallet and Harold Knight. 45 minutes. $69.95.

Duck Identification, introduced by Grits Gresham. 1 hour. $69.95.

Way of the Trout, 30 minutes. $59.95.

In "Building Your Own Rod," master rod crafter and author Dale Clemens provides step by step, easy to master instruction for building fly, spinning, trolling and casting rods "better than any you can buy—suited to your own needs." Rod blank selection, types of handle assemblies, shaping the grip, reel seats and butt caps, selection and positioning of guides, testing techniques and finishing are among topics covered.

In "Creative Rod Crafting," Clemens carries rod building a step further by demonstrating beauty-enhancing techniques that create unique works of art. Choosing materials for function and beauty, working with burnt cork, trim rings and colored plugs to design intricate hand inlays and the design, layout and construction of decorative thread wraps are among the areas covered.

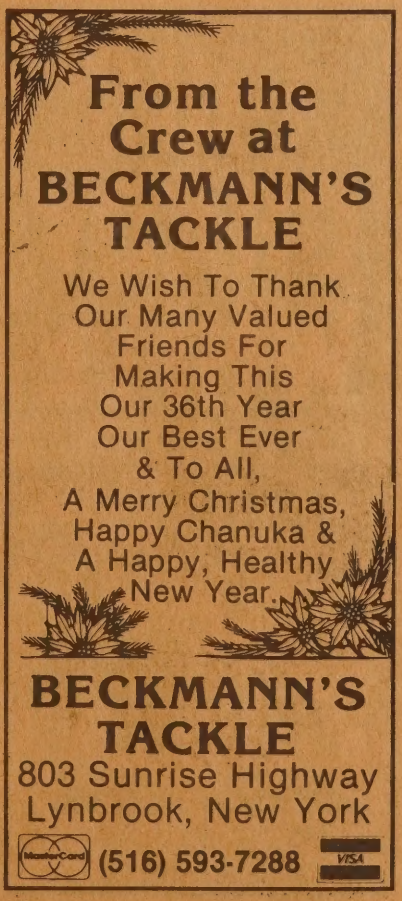
In "Introduction to Duck Calling," waterfowl guide Flip Pallet and champion caller Harold Knight show the hunter "how to speak like the ducks themselves."

"Duck Identification" comes to the aid of hunters who, by law or by choice, must be selective in their shooting.

The classic "Way of a Trout" departs from the Sportsman's Video Collection instructional format, reviewing the habits and habitat of the rainbow trout during its fight for survival from fertilized egg to old age.

Magnificently photographed with many memorable underwater scenes, "Way of a Trout" was produced in 1969 by noted conservationist and photographer James Wilkie who donated it to Trout Unlimited. Part of the proceeds from each "Way of the Trout" videocassette sold will go to Trout Unlimited for the protection and enhancement of America's freshwater fisheries.

"Sportsman's Video Collection" cassettes are available in both VHS and Beta format in many sporting goods and video stores or directly from: Scientific Anglers/3M, P.O. Box 33600, 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55133-3600. Send for free catalog.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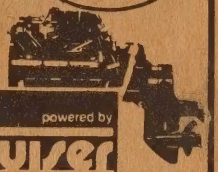

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★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

SEALINE REELS

by Pete Barrett

The Daiwa Sealine reels were introduced more than 10 years ago and their trend setting design and manufacturing techniques set the pace for other tackle manufacturers to follow in the years to come. The unitized one piece frame, aluminum spools, lightweight, but exceptionally strong components and oversized drag and gear system made the reels become accepted by fishermen everywhere.

From deep water cod jigging to drifting for sharks, from trolling school yellowfins to huge bigeye tuna and from bluefins to blue marlin, the reels have built a reputation of reliability and durability.

The Sealines we'll take a look at here are the offshore models from the 400H to the huge 900H. I've used each of these models, but have settled on the 400H and 600H for sharking and tuna. The 400H has beaten tigers up to 650 pounds and tuna to 198 pounds. The 600H has more than matched makos to 411 and tunas to 243 pounds. The 400H and 600H reels I'm using are now over eight years old, have several dozens of decent sized fish and have withstood the worst of fishing conditions getting drenched with salt spray and getting banged around while decks are cleared to begin a battle with a big fish.

The frame is made from a one piece casting of aluminum, heavily anodized with a rich black finish. This one piece design makes for the strongest possible frame that will not twist under the pressure of fighting a big fish and makes the reel light in weight. It also assures that the spool will always align with the side plates in perfect precision. Harness lugs are fitted into notches in the frame and are firmly anchored when the side plates are installed.

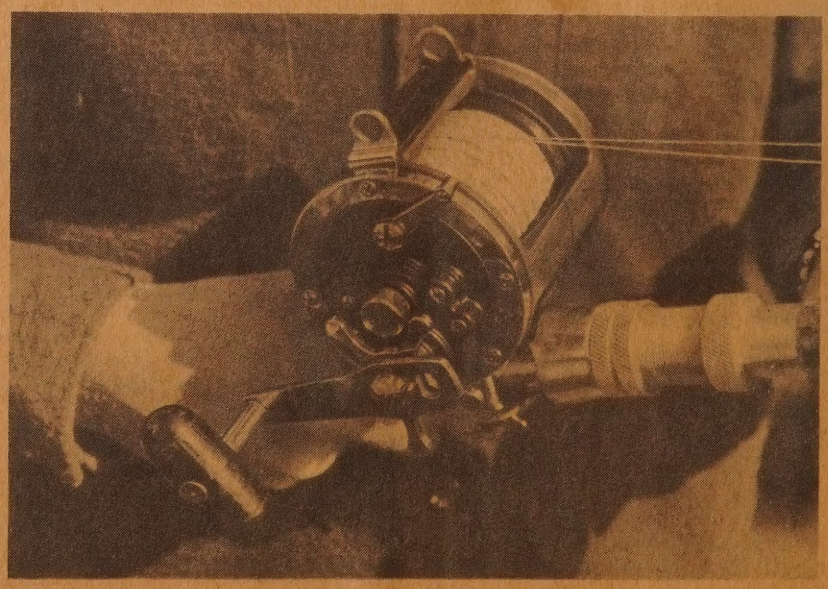
Side plates are also aluminum and anodized to match the frame. Chrome rings surround the outside of the side plates and help keep the reel free from scuffs. The rings also work like a washer to keep the side plate screws in place.

Large rivets secure the stainless steel reel foot to the frame and bolts are provided to add the rod clamp. Slots in the reel foot allow the clamp bolts to adjust to any size reel seat.

The handle is chromed and can be positioned in the standard length or the so-called "power leverage" position.

Access for servicing is by removal of the five screws that hold the right side plate. The side plate lifts off easily exposing the gear system, gear bridge and free spool mechanism. With the right side plate removed the spool can now be lifted free of the frame to expose the left side plate and the click mechanism.

This basic take-down is adequate for simple servicing. If you need to completely disassemble the reel for replacement of drag washers or com-



plete cleaning of gears and other parts, a schematic diagram and brief instructions are included with each reel. See a reel repair shop if you don't feel comfortable with servicing the Sealine.

While each of my Sealines came with gears well lubricated from the factory, I found it helpful to apply a light coating of grease to all inside surfaces to avoid problems later. The brass gear bridge, springs and gear parts can and will corrode if moisture ever gets into the reel. Five minutes time when the reel is new will keep it working like new literally forever.

The gears, gear bridge and free spool parts are all oversized, so they will function properly for many years of trouble free fishing. The main gear is machined from a metal known as Duronze, an alloy chosen for its long wearing capabilities. Matched to an oversize stainless pinion gear the combination is smooth and rugged. The gears on my 8-year-old Sealines have never been replaced and each reel has over 100 sharks and/or tuna taken on them; gear ratio is 4.2 to 1.

How well the drag performs is a vital consideration to anyone who runs offshore seeking big game. Daiwa uses oversize drag washers which nestle into the oversized drive gear. Metal drag washers are polished and slide smoothly against the drag washer material. The drag surfaces are protected from saltwater by a cupped flange located beneath the star drag wheel. Normal salt spray from running the boat will not get into the reels and you can clean the reel with a light spray from the hose back at the dock without worry of filling the reel with water.

The spool is cast aluminum machined to close tolerances to assure that it will fit snugly into the side plates with no excessive gap to catch a loop of line. It is balanced and anodized to match the finish of the frame. A central stainless steel shaft runs through the one piece spool and is supported at each end by sealed stainless ball bearings mounted in each side plate.

Daiwa backs up the Sealines with an extensive service program and replacement parts are available at most tackle shops that do reel repairs. There are several specialty shops in the northeast that stock a large inventory of parts should you need them and parts are readily available directly from Daiwa.

The offshore sizes of the Sealine series include the 300H, wide spool 350H, 400H, wide spool 450H, 600H and 900H. The numbering approximately matches the standard sizes of offshore reels. For instance, the 400H is considered to be a 4/0 reel.

After many years of use the Sealines have become well accepted by coastal anglers, including charter captains who depend on them for daily good service.

Manufactured by: Daiwa Corporation, 7421 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92641; (714) 895-6645.

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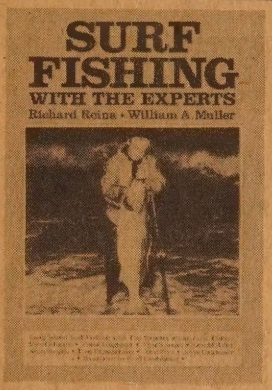

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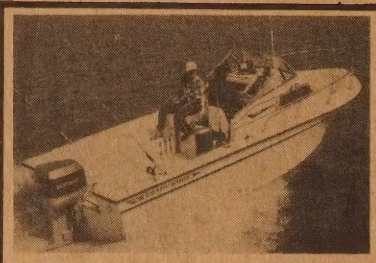

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

I have wire line on my reel and every time I go fishing for blues or stripers, I have trouble. I let the line out and must hold my thumb on the reel to keep it from unreeling too fast and this happens even if I set the drag tighter. I hook a fish and reel it in as the fish is pulling on the line and my line reels in loose. In other words, the line does not wrap around the reel tight and there are kinks in it. Then all of a sudden the fish will lunge and the wire line snaps and away goes the fish, hook and line.

Can you please tell me what I am doing wrong and advise me on how to correct this problem.*Tommy Allegra.*

Dear Tom,

We get a lot of mail from readers who have trouble using wire line and usually it is a minor problem that can be solved without too much trouble.

I'd venture a guess you are "pumping" the fish as you bring them to the boat. If that is the case, you will notice the wire lays loosely on the spool and as you continue to wind in more wire the looseness seems to magnify. Try keeping constant pressure on the fish as you bring it to the boat and see if that doesn't solve your loose wire problem. Kinks also develop as you lift and drop the rod when pumping a fish. These kinks may not cause the wire to break immediately but will eventually weaken the wire at that point and you will lose fish because of it.

Try this: put the reel clicker on and let out just enough wire to get the lures into the water. As the boat moves forward it will build pressure against the lures and will pull the wire line off the spool so it lays evenly as it goes out. Using the clicker gives just enough additional pressure so the wire does not kink or come off the reel too quickly.

You did not mention what type reel you are using for wire line. We tend to go with the mid-size trolling reels which have a wider spool than the traditional narrow frame trolling reels that were originally designed for use with wire lines. The wider spool on reels such as the Penn 3/0 and 4/0 Senator, Daiwa 50H, 350H and 400H and the Newell 338F, have seen lots of use on our boat and usually measure up to the task. There are many other brands that will perform equally well, but those listed have been used by us and can be recommended without hesitation.

You mention setting the drag tighter to overcome the loose line. All you accomplish by doing this is to increase the amount of drag on the line and if you should happen to nail a big fish you have incresed the chances of it breaking the line. Try tightening the spool bearings (end cap at side plate of reel) so the line comes off slower as that may also help resolve your problem with loose line.

We've used single strand stainless wire line for many years and find it as good a choice as any material. How-

ever, monel is softer and less likely to kink and you may want to give it a try since it is a lot easier to master.

* * *

Dear Doc,

In general, how do I choose which spinning reel to buy for surf fishing? Most of my surf fishing is done on the South Shore of Long Island. I own a 9½ foot, two-piece Garcia 4 Star Conolon rod and I'll be fishing for striped bass, blues and weakfish using cut bait and metal jigs. I'm looking at the Penn SS reels, but I don't know which one is right for me. I do a lot of walking, looking for productive spots, so I want as light a rod and reel combination as I can get. What part does balance of the rod and reel play in selecting the right reel? More important, I don't want to be "saddled" for years with a reel with expensive line capacity that I will never need or use. I've shopped around and some reels have a capacity in the range of 325 yards; do I really need 975 feet of line? Why does a reel carry so much capacity? If I do need all this capacity, do you recommend filling the spool part way with string and the rest with good quality mono?

Thank you in advance for your advice. *Charles J. Collazo.*

Dear Charles,

You will have to make the final decision as to which kind of reel you want. Most of the reels currently being marketed by the major companies are top flight and will last for many years if given reasonable service. The Penn 650 or 750 SS models are a good choice and are manufactured in the USA. There are many others including Shimano, Daiwa, Shakespeare, Ryobi, Mitchell and a list that could continue on.

The reason for the large amount of line capacity is spool size. If you go with a small spool reel you certainly will not get as much casting distance when you fill it with 17, 20 or even 25 lb. test line. The larger capacity reels have a spool of greater diameter and although they do hold more line they also offer you greater casting distance, which in your case, is necessary to reach fish that are feeding some distance off the beach.

We fill our reels with monofilament and do not use any type of filler. If the listed capacity of a particular model is 375 yards of 14 or 17 lb. test, that's what we put on the spool. There are exceptions. If you find the reel is filled to within 1/8 inch of the rim and it only has 250 yards, not the listed 375, then that is all the line you put on the spool.

Recommended line tests as shown on the spool or in the owner's manual are generalized. You can fill a reel with 25, 30 or 40 lb. test and not cause damage. But, remember, as you go to a heavier line you will cut down on the distance you can cast. And, if you use heavy lines in cold weather you are going to find they behave more like wire than monofilament.

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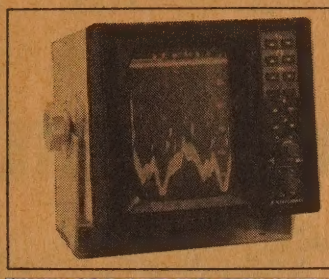

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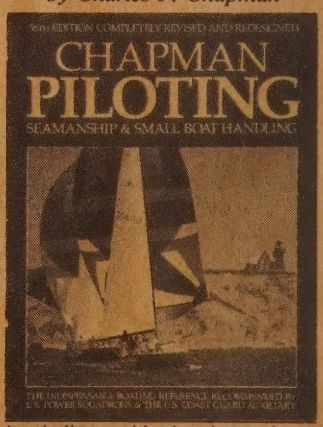

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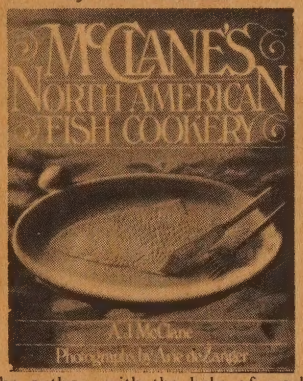

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BOTTOM RIGS FOR SHOREBOUND ANGLERS

by Herb Buch

Here are some tips on terminal gear for those who ply their trade from shore.

Bass, blues and weaks are the three heavy hitters of the local surfman: they fight well, eat well, and run to good sizes. Unfortunately, they are not around in the early spring and are scarce or absent at many times during the rest of the year. If we want a little action during those periods or are just hungry for some high grade seafood, we will turn to the bottom crowd.

When it comes to finding something tasty to fish for, there is another trio that comes to mind. They are flounder, fluke, and blackfish. Flounder are the first fish available to the surfman in the spring, and the last to leave in early winter. Blacks are available during spring and fall in most areas that furnish the rugged environment that they love. Fluke are a convenient alternative to no action at all during the dog days of summer. There are some other prospects for the pan that can liven up the dull times, but the trio above consists of the best tasting and most consistent prospects.

Baiting up in flounder country.

Using the proper rigs is a necessity for any type of fish. The favored haunts of your quarry will often dictate the kind of sinker and arrangement of hooks, while the feeding habits, and shape of the mouth determine the kind of hook. I would like to show you how to put together productive rigs for each of these three favorites, and also for a few of the occasional targets of opportunity.

It is rare to find a person who does not enjoy a flounder fillet. Because of the high regard in which they are held, and the long period of availability, we will discuss them first. Flounder migrate from bays to ocean in the spring and then from ocean back into the bays in the fall, placing them over many types of bottom. While in the bays they seem to prefer clean mud with not too much current. They are available to us from the marsh banks, bulkheads, docks and piers. On their migratory routes through the inlets, they pass over sandy and rough bottoms in areas which have strong currents. After that they are mostly beyond the reach of the surfcaster.

The type of rig varies according to where we have to fish. If we are working an inlet during May, we will have to contend with fast water and a bottom that may be all sand or have mussel beds with weed growth interspersed. A short cast may reach fishy areas in some spots, while at others we may have to use a heavy sinker and really lean on the rod. Other locations will allow us to drop our rig straight down into productive water from a pier or dock without casting at all.

If you frequent the piers and docks you will want a rig that gets your

baited hooks down to the bottom and keeps them there in spite of any current that is present. My favorite rig for this situation is made by sliding the end of my line through an egg sinker, then using an improved clinch knot to tie on a swivel. Now loop a pair of bridled flounder hooks on the free end of the swivel and you are ready to bait up. Most anglers buy the standard snelled Chestertown size 8 or 10 flounder hooks in a tackle shop and the clerk will gladly show you how to bridle two hooks and slip them into the swivel. The technique has been described in many articles in The Fisherman. My own preference is for Matt Ahern's favorite size 6 Sproats, which I snell myself on 20 lb. test mono, so that the end hook is about 12 inches from the swivel, and the branch hook or dropper comes off to the side about 6 inches from the swivel. A 2 oz. sinker will be adequate for most locations on the island. If the currents are weak you can drop to one ounce or less. Yellow beads that simulate corn seem to improve the catch on most days. You can buy hooks with the beads on the snell, or buy the beads and snell your own. Since a little jigging often attracts flounder, it is to your advantage to paint that sinker a bright red or yellow. A few colored beads between the sinker and the swivel make the finished rig look better to me. These touches seem to increase the effectiveness of the lifting motion used to interest the fish.

You will see many other flounder rigs in use, but this one has some advantages that may not be obvious at first glance. Probably, the most important one is that both hooks are right on the bottom. You will be lifting gently, or jigging periodically. and that lifts them up to hopefully catch the flounder's eye, but most action is right on the bottom. Secondly, if the flounder pulls the bait when you are not watching, the line will slide through the hole in the sinker and he will not feel the full weight. This is the concept that makes fish finder rigs, of which this is one variation, so popular.

Fishing from the bank, marsh or inlet shore requires a different approach because when you cast the pier rig, the hooks tend to whip back and catch on the line. You are also likely to need a heavier sinker at times when you have a long line out across a strong tide. Four ounces may be necessary in some inlet areas, and if the bottom is clean you can use a pyramid sinker instead of the usual bank sinker to increase holding power. The simplest but most efficient rig when you have to cast long distances is shown in diagram B. Take about three feet of 20 lb. test mono and tie a large loop at one end for your sinker, a small loop at the other for your line, and two dropper loops spread so that the lower hook will not catch on the sinker, or on the upper hook. The big loop allows you to change sinkers easily to accommodate changes in current strength.

Fluke are often abundant around inlets.

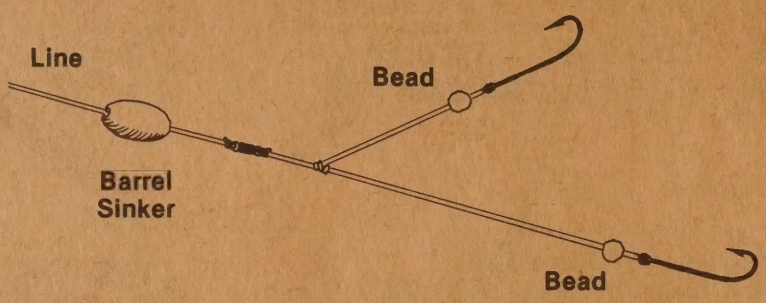
If the area that produces fish is close to shore, or you are on a high bank, or jetty, you will modify the above rig by making the lower loop within an inch or two of the sinker, and the second loop just far enough above it to prevent tangling. This is necessary to place your baited hooks close to the bottom when the angle of your line is greater than it would be on a long cast. It does not seem to hurt and at times, it seems to help if your upper hook is dangling just off the bottom, but if it is too high your catch will drop off. Once again, the brightly painted sinker and beads are usually a plus factor.

Our other favorite flatfish, the fluke, requires a different rig, because of the larger baits needed to catch them. They are usually caught over open bottom, but even when they are in the surf, I do not use a pyramid sinker because it is important for the bait to move as if it were alive. This is necessary because fluke mostly ignore a bait sitting in one spot. The bait used in shoreline fishing is usually a pennant shaped strip of fish or squid, hooked lightly through the wide end so that it can flutter as it works t through the wide end so that it can flutter as it works through the water. Last year we were gifted with large numbers of short fluke (legal size is 14 inches), and a long shanked hook made it easier to release these needle-toothed flatties. I would recommend an 18 to 24 inch, 20 lb. test mono snell on a size 1/0 Carlisle hook. Small commercially snelled fluke hooks would do the job, but the snell is usually too long to cast without trouble, and the hooks are often of extra heavy wire. The thinner wire penetratges the mouth of the fish easier, but should be sharpened before use, as fluke have tough jaws.

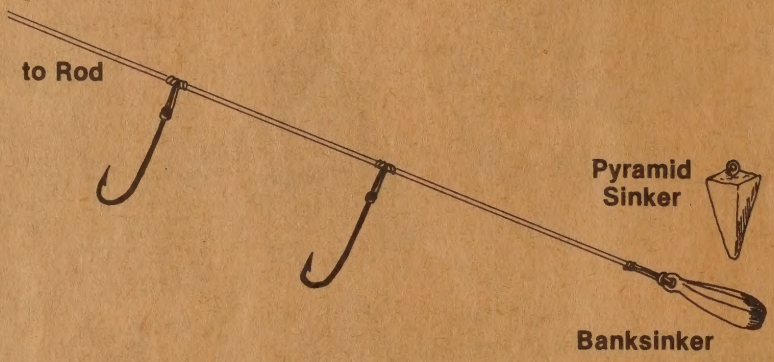
The rig is once again the fish finder type. When the fluke grabs the fluttering tail of the bait, you stop reeling and give him time to get the whole thing into his mouth. The sliding sinker is less likely to alert him to danger. A two ounce egg sinker on the line with a #5 swivel to connect the

(Continued on next page.)

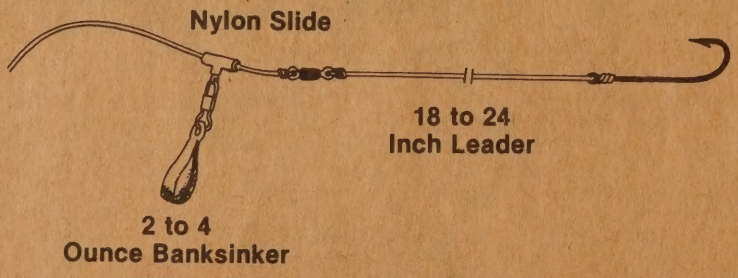
PIER, DOCK RIG / FLOUNDER



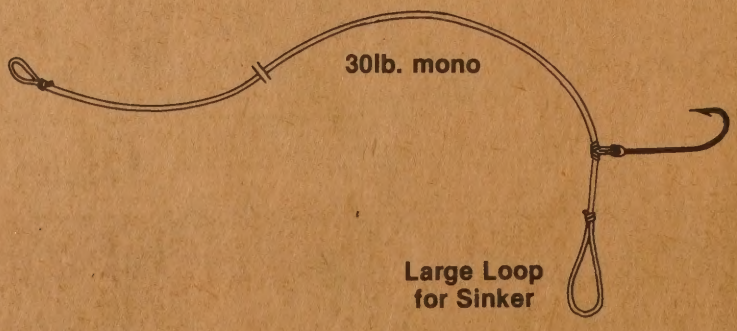
CASTING RIG / FLOUNDER



SURF RIG / FLUKE



BLACKFISH



hook make up an ideal rig. Knotting the snell directly to the swivel with the improved clinch knot helps to prevent fouling back on the line during your cast. The weight of the sinker can be varied depending on the rod you use and the shore that you are working. Bank sinkers make a good alternate when used with the nylon fish finder slides. Use one of these slides with a four ounce sinker and a larger hook, and you can prospect the outer bars of the open beach which occasionally hold some big fluke. Work your rig right into the wash as fluke will feed there also, even during some of those dull summer days.

The last member of our trio is the blackfish. He is the best fighter of the three and almost as good as the others in the pan. However, while the other two fish are mainly found over clean bottom, this one loves rocks, wrecks, mussel beds, dock pilings and anything else which can support a population of mussels and crabs. When you fish for blacks, you expect to lose rigs, therefore, make them as simple as possible.

My own favorite begins with a three foot length of 30 lb. mono. I tie a large loop at one end for the sinker, a small dropper loop right next to it, and a small end loop at the other end for attaching your line. The dropper or side loop near the sinker receives the loop of your #6 Virginia (blackfish) hook on about 12 inches of 30 lb. test mono. The sinker loop goes through the eye and around a bank sinker of 2 to 4 ounces. The large size of the loop allows you to carry ready rigs in envelopes and quickly slide on a sinker when you need a new one. The rig will hook and hold small blacks or large ones and the leader is strong enough to resist abrasion from rocks. Never go out for blacks without carrying at least six rigs.

On occasion you will find that some other bottom fish are available in quantity. Blowfish have been increasing in numbers in recent years. For them, you can use any of the flounder rigs, but be sure to use the long shanked hooks because they swallow small hooks and then bite through the snells. Sea bass are common at times at inlets and rock piles. Rigs B and C will work well if you substitute size one or two Sproat hooks for the flounder hooks.

If you carry small coils of 20 and 30 lb. mono and some assorted sizes of hooks and sinkers, you can build spare rigs at will, or invent new ones to fit a specific situation. Bottom fishing of this kind is not as exciting as game fishing, but it is good for you in two ways. First, it is relaxing and renewing. Second, if you eat the fish you will be following a lot of recent medical advice as to avoiding heart problems in the future. Now you can build rigs at home or on the beach to take advantage of whatever opportunities the sea sends to you. This season or next, expand your horizons and enjoy some of the other fish that frequent our shorelines.

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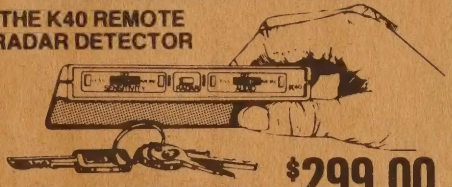

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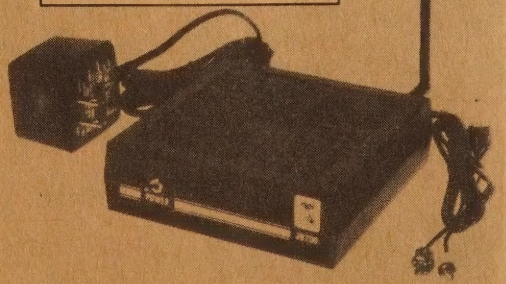

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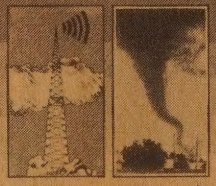

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GET READY FOR HOLIDAY COD

by Tom Schlichter

The holiday season warms the hearts of codfish fans intent on some fresh fillets.

About the time most Long Islander's are opening their Christmas gifts, die-hard anglers begin to be overwhelmed by that longing to "set a hook" into something solid. Oftentimes, well meaning family or relatives accidentally intensify this feeling by placing fishing gifts such as reels, plugs or tackle boxes under the tree. These, while always welcomed, merely taunt sufferers of cabin fever, begging to be broken in rather than stored away. An occasional stop at a local tidal creek may temporarily ease this tenseness by supplying the body with a welcomed shot of trout or white perch, but still, that longing to really haul back on that rod and feel the hook stick in something substantial works it way under the skin. For many die-hards, nothing short of a holiday trip for cod can relieve the strain.

Fortunately for us, south shore and east end party boats offer a safe, warm and practical way to get to the cod grounds. Although many ships call it quits after the fall flounder run, at least a few boats in each port continue to sail right through the cold months in search of the "Winter King." The price of these trips runs about $30 at most ports and senior citizens and children are discounted on many boats. With a daily pulse on the cod fishing grounds, heated cabins, bathrooms, a mate to shuck clams and help sort out tangles (remember to tip these guys; 15 percent is customary for a mate who

A number of open boats are available to anglers seeking holiday time cod. Photo by John Konior.

works hard), these trips are well worth the price.

Cod fishermen are a special breed. Experienced winter anglers think nothing (at least out loud!) of standing in sub or near freezing temperatures on windy overcast days in the hope of nailing a few good fish. I can't honestly count myself among those "regulars" who head out several times each month, but I've been out enough to win a few pools and maybe pass on a couple of helpful tips.

Probably the most important piece of information I've gathered over the years is to be selective when choosing the day you are going to make your trip. Of course, if you have only one day off there's not much to do about this one, but if it's at all possible, hold out for good fishing weather. Mild winds are more important than sunshine as they will usually allow better catches and make standing in the cold more tolerable. The reason for increased catches is that codfish like their baits stationary on the bottom. High winds make for rough seas and we all know how hard it to keep a bait on the bottom once the seas begin to kick up. Call the weather bureau before heading out and wait for a day when those winds will be less than 15 knots.

A second area that you may be able to control has to do with tackle. Whenever possible, use a long, sturdy rod. Many veteran codders use custom made rods. I use an 8½ footer with a medium tip and sturdy butt section. Most party boats offer rental rods which are 5 to 6 feet in length and these are certainly adequate, especially when the winds are calm, but the benefit of using longer rods is twofold. First, they provide enough leverage to allow underhand casts of 30 to 50 feet or more from the boat. This means that instead of sitting in a line with 20 to 40 other baits, yours will stand by itself if you lob it out. Secondly, long rods allow for the negation of slack in your line without reeling as the boat rolls up and down the ocean's heave. By lifting your rod as the boat moves down and lowering it as you move up over each roll, it's possible to keep a tight line at all times while never lifting your sinker off the bottom. This takes a little practice, but with a little work even a novice can learn the basic procedure in a trip or two.

I like to keep my codfish rigs as simple as possible. Thus, even though some anglers use two hook rigs, I generally settle for the single hook setup. These are made by tying a dropper loop 16 to 20 inches above a bank sinker. Keep this dropper loop small to help avoid tangles. To the dropper attach a pre-snelled codfish hook and you're ready to go. On those days when the dogfish are not a nuisance, add a green or red tube about 20 inches above the dropper. This may nail an additional fish or two on each trip and quickly lets you know if any mackerel are in town.

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As far as baits are concerned, there are two primary schools of thought. Some anglers swear by a single piece of skimmer clam (these are provided by the boat). Others like to pile on several clams in the hope of attracting a whopper. I've never been truly happy with either method, so I split the difference and go with two small clams or one large one wrapped tight around the hook. More important than the number of clams used is leaving a two inch or longer free-swinging tail. This tail, fluttering enticingly in the current, is what really catches the fish's eye.

When dogfish invade the fishing grounds, as they do frequently at this time of year, try to find a piece of conch among the cut skimmer. This bait is tough and really stands up to bottom pests. One last idea on baits, bring along any green crabs you have left in the freezer from blackfish season. There are top-notch cod baits and also account for some outsized blacks which winter on some of the deep water wrecks.

As important as any fishing technique when winter codfishing is dressing for the weather. Remember, it's colder on the water than it is in your backyard. Be sure to bring along a knit hat that will completely cover your ears. Long johns, sweaters, sweat shirts, and heavy socks are a must. Also, waterproof gloves, boots and foul weather gear are required to stay dry.

According to Captain Gordon Roman of the Captree open boat, Captree Queen II, this time of year, codfishing is pretty much a mixture of wreck and open bottom fishing so be prepared for both. Early results from this season have shown the average sized cod taken to be a little larger than in recent years with 10 to 18 lb. fish predominating and enough 20 to 28 lbers. to keep things interesting when it comes time to settle the pool.

Holiday season codfishing does not often offer a bonanza. Instead, a steady pick of fish keeps everyone on their toes. Most anglers take from 2 to 8 fish a trip with veterans often scoring a little better. That, however, is plenty to fill the freezer when you consider the average size of each fish. It's also just enough to relieve most symptoms of cabin fever for a few weeks. So when you open the box at Christmas time which contains that Penn Senator reel you've been hinting for, you know where to try it out. Plan a party boat trip for cod and give yourself a gift this holiday season.

PAYING YOUR DUES

by Capt. John DeMaio

One night last year at one of my classes, a student asked me why he was unable to catch weakfish as well as the boat next to him. He claimed he was on top of the fish and using the same tackle and lure as the angler alongside. Only the guy next door was knocking them dead and he merely picked away. Considering that the student was accurate in his accounting of the day's fishing, his answer lies in not the obvious, but in something far more subtle than the right lure or correct pound test line.

For years now I have been writing about getting the "feel" for what you are doing. The novice out there probably doesn't even know what I am talking about. Just the realization that a certain talent is gained through experience is a sign that the angler is on his way to better things. Anyone believing that it's all luck is a rank amateur. Certain skills are apparent in us all. The concert pianist, a clever corporate executive and the athlete. Although they seem worlds apart, I'm sure there is a common denominator: experience!

Some of us never will be good fishermen. Even those with the dexterity of a champion athlete. There is a little something extra that divides fishermen. A certain understanding of when to stay and when to go. But that's not my concern here. I speak of the angler who can work a lure like magic and catch a fish where none seem to exist. This ability becomes blaringly apparent when one man in a boat of three will get all the hits, leaving the other two muttering "What the hell am I doing wrong?" No coaching will bring instant success.

Bottom fishing will bring out the finesse in us all. Trying to hook bottom dwellers on a piece of bait can be a trying experience for one and a piece of cake for another. In Montauk, sinker bouncing can be very tricky. Strong tides, deep water and the mixed bag syndrome play the devil with inexperienced hookers. Anchoring a boat over a piece of bottom during a running tide can be frustrating for the captain. Most of the fishing party is unable to feel the sinker on the bottom and consequently don't feel the fish biting. There seems to be no cure as a heavier sinker destroys all feeling. The result, the captain is forced to leave biting fish and go to a drift situation or move to another area.

I have a friend who has been fishing with me for years. A retired gentlemen who often comes out with me when I am not booked and will spend a day helping me "fill the box." For starters, the man knew how to use his tackle. He was a natural with a diamond jig and has no trouble catching his share of bass. When it came to bottom fishing it was agony and ecstasy. Without the tide he would catch his share of porgies. Once the tide began to run he was useless and nothing I said or did was of any help. The feel was not there. After a long eight years, I gave it up as hopeless. Who would have believed that in the past two years he actually began jerking porgies in the hard running tide. His newfound talent came not as a revelation but slowly. For him, it took a long time, but he finally arrived.

When all things are considered equal, one boat will outfish the other because of the quality and capability of the anglers participating. We see it all the time in the charter boat business. The boat with the better fishermen will catch more fish. This applies mostly to bottom fishing, particularly codfish. Same thing on a head boat. Why is it that some fishermen are consistent in winning the pool? The answer lies not in luck but in skill.

The following is a story that will emphasize the importance of experience.

About six years back, a man by the name of Jay, began to charter me. He already had plenty of fishing time chalked up and was quite capable in the use of the conventional rod and reel. His basic skills were good; such as coordination, reflexes, etc. One other attribute worthy of mention is attitude. An angler who fishes with an open mind and enjoys the day will profit more than than those who fish in desperation.

Jay's first trip saw a half dozen bass landed and he realized then that the diamond jig needed to be worked more deftly to lure a bass. This took time to master but he made it. After three years of fishing with me he began to lose interest in bluefish and if bass or weaks were not available, the preference would then be for bottom fish.

When it came to diamond jigging weakfish, Jay was an expert. Watching him work out in the middle of a weakfish blitz would showcase his natural abilities and obvious experience. Hooking, gaffing, avoiding the tangle, all done swiftly and neatly. As if he were born to the boat.

About the same time he lost the desire to spend the entire fishing day chasing blues, an interest in casting developed. I do a lot of casting on the "Vivienne" so it came as no surprise that Jay soon discovered what I feel is the most complete form of fishing. When most anglers reach this level, they find satisfaction in the sport. Some begin there and know very little about the other methods. Most of us in this area, work their way up to the level of cast and retrieve. It never tires. Never bores. You don't need big

Even a good coach can only take you so far.

fish for enjoyment nor the excitement of offshore fish. (I still can't understand why anyone would want to be strapped into a fighting chair and be made to strain every fiber in their body to land a fish.) Give me the action. As I have already written, the relationship of bite and hook is excitement enough.

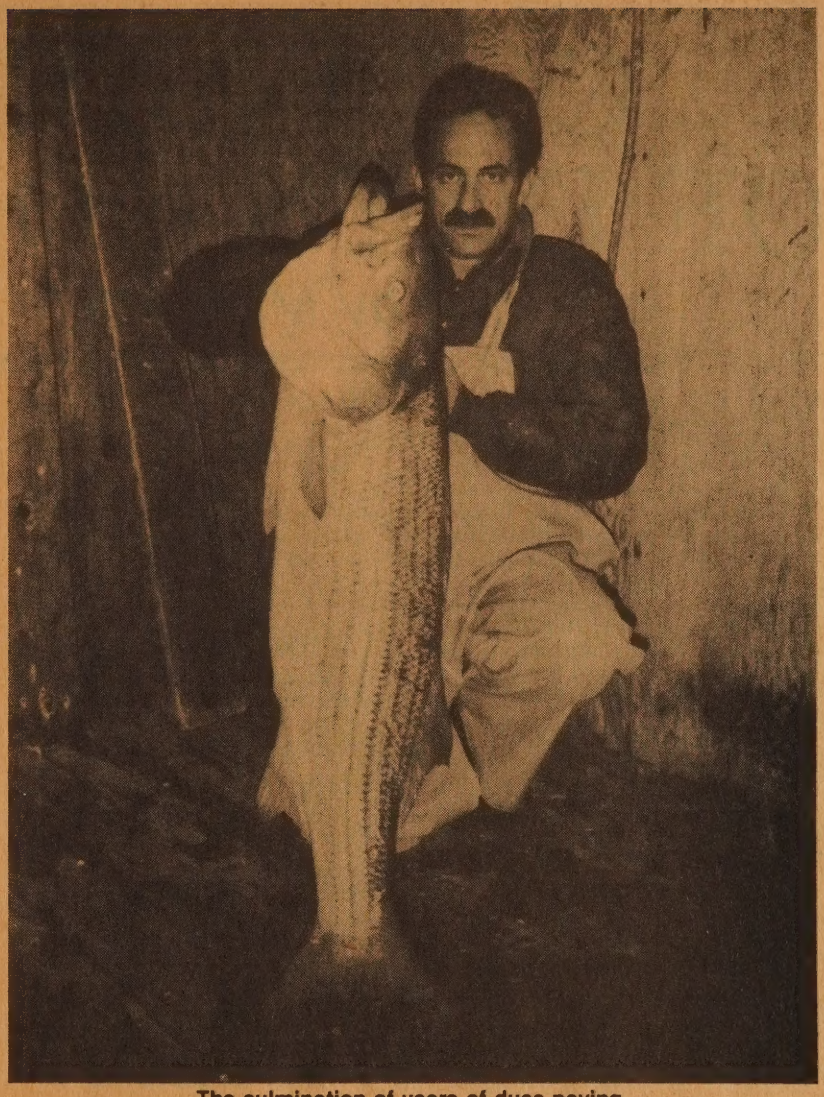
A quick look at how I cast is a must for understanding. My tackle is conventional. The reels are Ambassadeur bait casters and the rods are 8 footers that I make myself. My line is 15 lb. test mono. Most important is my selection of lures. Everything I use sinks, such as bucktails and baittails. Rarely do I use a plug. This presents the problem. Unlike floating lures, mastering the underwater lure over the bottom is tricky. Add the fact that you must be able to cast with a conventional reel (even the baitcaster must be controlled) and all the angler's skills come into focus. Both basic and those achieved. The final rub is the time of day. Your best cast fishing comes at night. Many fishermen with apparently adequate skills are useless in the dark. I think this is because the lure is not visible and you cannot see when it hits the water. Result: backlash. Using spinning tackle is not the answer. My customers using spinning tackle seem to have just as much trouble with their tackle as conventional reel users.

(My choice of reels is not in what will backlash less, but in that will catch more fish. The underwater lure is best controlled by the conventional baitcasting reel. Also, baitcasters will out-distance spinning tackle when using bait tails or bucktails. If you doubt that, I am always available for a small wager. Just bring your rod and reel.)

So it was only natural that Jay would end up using tackle identical to mine for his casting. The daytime casting seemed easy enough. When available some bass were taken in this manner. Most of the best casting action came when fishing weakfish. Bluefish, bonito, false albacore and some school tuna provided action but the **hot** fishing came with the weaks. Bass are mostly a fall item now but the weakfish action lasts longer and is available during the summer and early fall. Even for the weaks, nights are best for casting.

Jay began to charter night trips and his interest was strictly casting. At first there were some tackle problems in the dark, but they were eventually overcome. Here again, the weakfish came easily. Together the two of us would take 30 to 40 weaks a night. Due to the many adversities of shallow water casting, some trips were bummers, but the average was indeed good. Add the magic of moonlight and an ocean to call your own and it's fishermen heaven.

Although Jay was adept in working the underwater lure, the bass were still a problem. He worked his way up slowly. I would out fish him easily in the beginning. As an example, out of four bass taken I would have them all. Out of six, he would have one. Remember the experience factor reader. I have been doing this kind of fishing for almost 30 years now and Jay only two. One thing more to point out, we're playing the game in my ball park. I know exactly where to cast the lure. After years of fishing the same spots it comes natural. Therefore, I would have the edge. Still it would seem easy enough for me to coach a capable angler into putting one on the hook. It doesn't work like that. You can stand behind some and say, "Cast it over there, now turn the handle slowly—now quickly—hesitate." Bang, a bass jumps on. Not so, at least not now. Once was I could and did. Those days of a bass every cast are over.



The culmination of years of dues paying.

Slowly the angler discovers the mystery of line manipulation. That arduous journey through the forest of frustration, expense and fruitless fishing trips pays off. His new knowledge is something that cannot be taken away. With the new discovery automatically comes confidence. As sure as sunshine follows the rain. Now there is no stopping you.

And so it came to be that on a recent October moon, Jay and I went fish to fish for a total of 14 bass. He had the largest, a 49½ pound striped bass and I had one of 41 pounds. The two of us outfished the entire Montauk fleet that night. All the trollers, live bait dunkers, and everyone else came in second to two baitcasters, 15 lb. test line and 5/0 hooks. The triumph was complete. For Jay it was double so when at one point during the night's fishing I asked him, "Where did you hook that last one."

On the way home that night, while the last of the coffee was drained from the thermos, the feeling of perfect contentment that can only come through accomplishment was interrupted by Jay's remark that broke the silence. "I sure paid my dues for this night." Soon Jay will take all this for granted. He, in turn, will look at the struggling angler at his side and will be unable to understand why he can't get the bites. "It's easy, just cast it out and reel it in."

CODFISHING OF DAYS GONE BY

by Matt Ahern

As I write this (late October), I have no way of knowing how good or bad this year's cod season will be; nor do I know if by the time you read this you will have scored or not. If you had a few good days, fine; if you haven't done as well as expected, be of good cheer and plug along. All things come to those who persevere.

However, the outcome of this season's codfishing is not the subject of this article. But codfishing 55/60 years ago when I was but a mere youngster learning the party boat ropes is.

Interested? Read on. I promise not to bore you.

I'm sure you've heard tales of the fantastic codfishing that was available those days. Are these stories true? Or are they figments of the imagination?

Well, let's see.

Truly, just how good was fishing in the "old days?" An interesting question, one often asked by today's fishermen. Answers received depend much on the whim of the moment. I have yet to hear anything but glowing reports. We old-timers refrain from dishonoring our cherished memories. I'm sure you won't blame us for that. But as the saying goes, it wasn't all beer and skittles, for certainly we had our poor days too. Or perhaps (to ease my conscience, maybe), I should call them "slow" days, for in the true sense of the word, they really weren't "poor" when compared to today's meaning of that word.

I can't recall ever being skunked when going for cod or fluke, or what have you—although I remember many days when I failed to catch as many fish as conditions led me to expect I would.

Just as today, cod were always a problem in one way or another. I sometimes think that when Montauk codfishing goes into high gear, it is actually better than the fishing we enjoyed. Not that we didn't have occasional outstanding catches. I suppose if we had the advantage of today's technological advancements in tackle, our codfishing would have been much improved, for certainly the fish were available.

Our cod sticks those long-gone days were of several varieties: either double-enamel split bamboo (one rod built over the core of another) or lancewood or bathbara. The latter two often became brittle after much use and it wasn't unusual to have these rods eventually break near the ferrule or reel seat while under the stress of an outsized fish.

Split bamboo rods stood the gaff pretty well—if you remembered to give them a coat of good grade spar varnish several times a year. It was disastrous to allow saltwater to work its insidious way into minute nicks and cracks.

"I went through a lot of linen line, plus sinkers and hooks tossed overboard by irate fishermen. I was known during codfishing time as that damned kid with the lousy line!"

Those fellows who couldn't afford one of these rods—and I was one—had little problems, though. We just finagled a rejected pool cue and converted it to our use. These, being of straight-grained hickory, were mighty tough. No matter how large, I never saw a cod break a hickory pool cue rod.

The old standby of many codfishermen those days was the hand line. I used one for a long time before I became affluent enough to purchase a "real" rod and reel. For two bits, I could buy a 100 yard hank of heavy tarred line and with this I decked many a cod. Actually, it was far easier for experienced fishermen to catch cod with hand lines than it was with the insensitive rods of those days. It wasn't much sport, though, and as soon as I could, I bought a "real" rod and gladly gave up the hand line.

Most reels in use those days were either 4½, 5 or 6 inch wooden sidewinders, with an occasional one of Bakelite by its inventor, Andy Goetz. Anyone out there recall this superb fisherman?) There were multiplying reels in use, too, but the sidewinders had the edge back then. The Cadillac of multiplying reels were those manufactured by Edward Vom Hoffe and Company. To own one of these excellent reels made you a true man of distinction.

Sidewinders did the job well, but when an outsized cod was hooked, the fisherman had to know just how much line to give the pounding fish. This was accomplished by palm pressure against the reel's side and when the fisherman knew how to do it well, that cod was going nowhere but on deck. If that fisherman was a "pilgrim," it was often goodbye cod if it were large.

Fishing line was another thing. The good stuff was made of Irish linen. It was exceptionally strong when wet—if you remembered to wash it in fresh water after each use and dry it in the shade. If you failed to do this religiously, that Irish linen didn't last too long and often parted at the most crucial time. Most fishermen used white Irish linen; there was some green-dyed stuff around, but for some reason it was never popular. I never knew why, for it certainly blended nicely with the water.

Cod are acknowledged to be spooky at times and I sometimes wonder how we managed so well with that white line. It stood out in the water like a sore thumb. But we did manage and fishermen insisted upon using it.

For strength and durability in fishing line, we considered a brand called "Joe Jefferson" the best. It was named, I believe, for a famous stage actor in the long ago (probably a fisherman, too).

But for a tad like me, its cost was prohibitive—$1.25 for a 100 yard spool of 12 thread line. This tested out to 36 lbs., which is what we used for codfishing (each strand tested out to three pounds when dry—when wet, perhaps 50 to 60 lbs.). That was a lot of money those days (party boat fares were a dollar for kids and two dollars for grown-ups), and I could ill afford it. But I solved that vexing problem.

My dad was a horseshoer (had been all his life; the only job he ever had), which meant that he knew many

saddle and harness makers. It was no trick for me to latch onto a cone of waxed Irish linen thread from these good-natured craftsmen. There was only one hitch, though. (See, God made the roses, but the devil put the thorns on them.) That line wasn't braided and whenever it fouled around someone's line, hooks were sure to pierce the strands and cause much difficulty in separating. Most times a knife was the only solution and I went through a lot of this linen line, plus sinkers and hooks tossed overboard by irate fishermen. I was known during codfishing time as "that damned kid with the lousy line!"

The average cod catch per fisherman those days varied, just as it does today. A good catch was a dozen to perhaps 15, and this was quite common. A poor day's catch might produce from two to six fish. The big difference from today is that the old-timer knew he would have some measure of success. As I said, I can't recall ever being skunked.

The average sized cod we caught those days was between 8 and 10 pounds. We saw few 40 lbers. (although I did see a 63 lber. caught one time). Today, 40 pounders hardly raise an eyebrow.

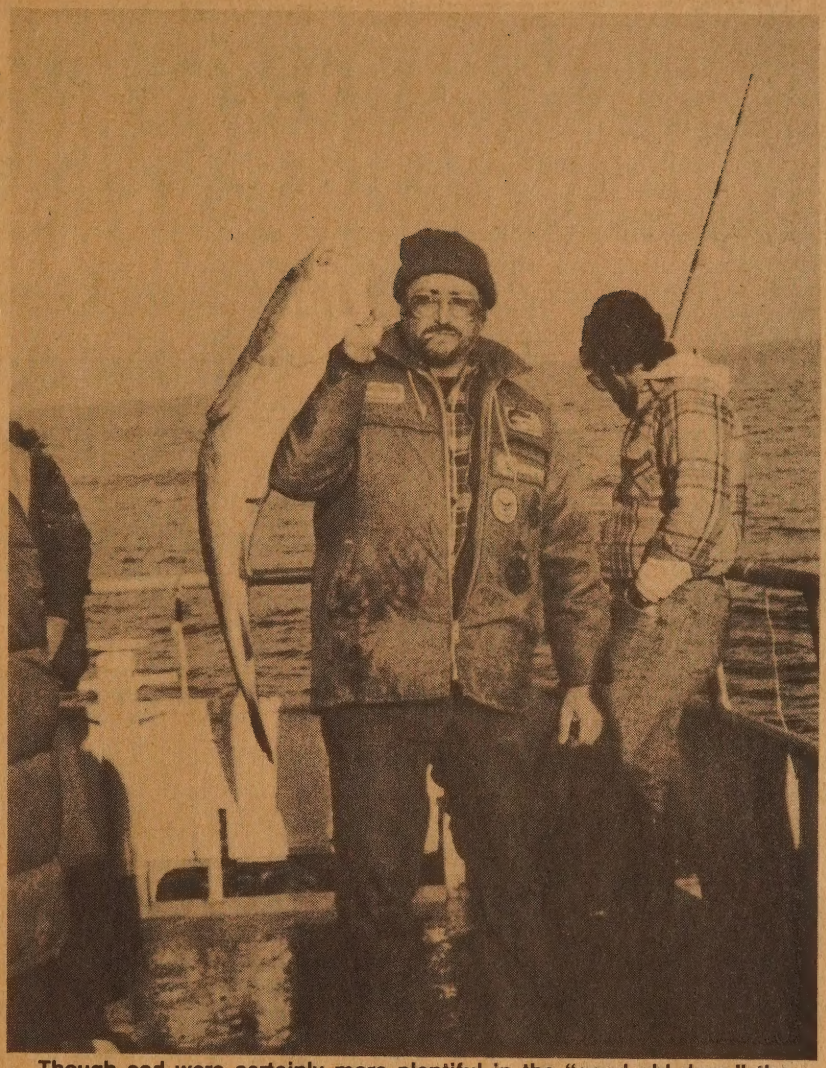
Weather conditions have always affected codfishing. Experienced codfishermen will agree that wind from the northwest is more likely to produce cod than one from an easterly quarter. (Rising barometer, and so forth, which makes for good codfishing.)

Notice the qualifier: "more likely," as I want to tell you about a day in late March, 1930 when an east wind produced a record catch for us.

It was a freak happening, therefore, I don't want you to think that anything like this—or even near this—was a common occurrence. It is my intent to call attention to the amount of cod that were available in the New York Bight when conditions were right.

I was a mate on the old Rose R II out of Canarsie those days. On this particular day, the weather was so bad not a soul showed up to go fishing. Gusty winds and driving rain from the east told us we were about to have a free day. But not quite. About eight o'clock, just as we were ready to pack it in, along came five fishermen anxious to go fishing come hell or high water. "Please Cap,' they pleaded, "We've come all the way from New Jersey. Please take us out."

At that time, few fishermen had cars. These fellows had come to Canarsie by ferry, subway and trolley. It had taken hours and only the good Lord knows when they left home. It took five passengers to cover expenses those days; and we had that. But the skipper was unwilling to leave. He told them it was useless as all they'd get would be a few ling and a good case of seasickness. He refused to take their money for this kind of fishing. Besides that, all we had for bait was a half-pail of smelly conch left over from the weekend's blackfishing. Because the weather was so bad, we knew the Roxbury bait man from whom we got our skimmer clam would never expect us. He had enough sense to stay off the bay on such days.



Though cod were certainly more plentiful in the "good old days," the odds of landing a trophy size cod are better for current day anglers. Photo by John Konior.

Well, those fellows pleaded so eloquently, the skipper gave in. "We'll go over to Ambrose Lightship," he told me as I stood in the wheel house sorting sinkers. "We'll get a few ling and that will do it. It'll be an easy day."

On the way through Rockaway Inlet, the rain ceased and by the time we passed the bell buoy, the wind lessened. When we reached the lightship, it wasn't too bad, but there was still a good heave on. To anchor would have made those passengers seasick in minutes, and as the wind continued to slacken, we decided to drift.

Now comes the part I've written about in other articles over the years.

We didn't get a ling that day. What we got were cod and more cod. No end of cod. We must have drifted at the same rate those cod were swimming under us. We just couldn't drift out of them. That school must have been enormous. The fish weren't large, averging 6 to 8 pounds, with an occasional 12 pounder, or so.

The skipper worked four handlines, two on each side of the boat. His cod were kept separately, and when we quit, he had on deck 105 cod! There was no need to hook the fish, they stuck right on; all that was necessary was to swing them aboard. We gaffed no fish. One of those passengers was fishing saltwater for the first time and he had 39 or 49 cod, I can no longer recall the exact amount.

We were actually walking on cod in order to move about. It was a day I'll never, ever forget. There's more to this story, such as returning the following day with a swinging load of anxious fishermen, only to find the cod gone (a double-header was caught on the first cast by the mate I worked with). We did settle that day with ling—those good old "day-savers."

Now—that's codfishing as I remember it in the long ago.

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REEL REPAIR

by Pete the Tackle Man

There are many good fishermen who can test their equipment to the maximum during a battle with anything from a largemouth bass to a giant bluefin tuna. They rely on their rods and reels to perform with the precision of a well tuned piece of machinery. Yet, how many of us sadly neglect the care of our equipment that is so necessary for successful fishing?

Most fishermen don't stop to think about the little details that are so in need of taking care of. That fish you lost on your last fishing trip to bad line, remember? Sure you do; you blamed it on cheap line or was it because the fish dragged you into the weeds or rocks and nicked the line? We all can think of a million reasons why we lost fish and will never think to look at some of the reasons that we can control.

Is the drag running smooth on your reel? How does that line roller look? That is the little roller at the end of the bail that the line must roll over. The roller is supposed to roll, as the name signifies. Is it grooved? Is it pitted? These problems are ones that can sneak up on a fisherman before he even realizes it and has lost a trophy fish. Worn line rollers are probably responsible for more damaged line than any run through the weeds will cause. They constantly wear the line, slowly destroying it. While checking the line roller, take a look at the bail. Is it smooth and pit free? Take a minute to check the bail spring; if it is weak, change it. A weak spring will cause the bail to flip during a cast. The next thing that you hear is a crack as the line parts and your plug is sent into orbit. The best distance casts occur at this time.

Sticky drag systems are responsible for a good many breakoffs. If the drag isn't running smooth, the fish has a definite advantage. Salt and sand in a drag system are enough to raise the devil with the only means you have of slowing down and controlling the pressure applied to the fish you are trying to land. I would be willing to bet that not many fishermen will take the time to check and clean the drag washers, look for grooves and high spots along with shiny surfaces created by the heating of the washers during a battle. In many reels, particularly salt water conventional reels, those that are subject to heavy fishing, the drag washers will be heated so bad that the fiber washers will become welded to the metal washers creating one large washer. This is what creates most drag problems.

A big problem with washers in spinning reels is sand and salt. Unlike conventional reels, the drag washers are located in the spool and are readily exposed to such problems. If the washers are not kept clean, the sand and salt will take its toll, creating grooves in the washers leading to a spastic drag.

Probably, the biggest thing that fishermen neglect to do is rinse off their reels after each use. Freshwater fishermen are most likely to forget this as they figure that fresh water is cleaner and there is no salt, thus there is no need to rinse the reel. Let the truth be known: freshwater is just as troublesome as salt. Dirt and silt are picked up by the line and transported to the reel.

When rinsing your conventional

(Continued on next page.)

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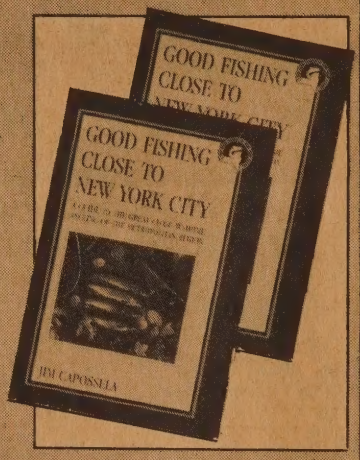

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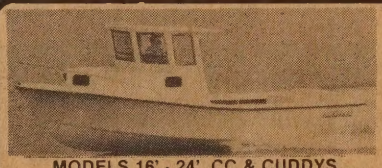

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reels, simply turn on the hose and run a light trickle of water over the reel. Do not use high pressure as this has a tendency to push or embed the small particles of dirt and salt into the reel. An easy flow of water is all that is required. When rinsing the reel, hold the reel in a position that keeps the handle side of the reel upward. As the water falls off the reel it will be sent away from the internal parts of the reel.

On a spinning reel, hold the reel in the same position as it is when it is on the rod. Trickle the water from the top of the reel to the bottom. This allows the flow of contaminated water to drop off the reel without entering the inside through the shaft or the rotor.

Every third or fourth time out it is a good idea to lightly lube your reel. There are lube fittings (those little round ball bearing looking fittings at the handle and on the side plates) on the reels and a small amount of lube should be placed in them. **Do not over lubricate**. A small amount of lube is all that is needed. Each reel company has their own reel oil and one is as good as another. If you don't have any or can't find any, a light oil such as sewing machine oil or three-in-one oil will do just fine.

I do not recommend spraying your entire reel with WD40 when it is put into storage. Granted, it is a great way to prevent moisture from building up on the reel, but I feel it will take its toll on the line and the first thing you start out with is the scent of the oil on your hands. This I feel helps to warn fish. I prefer to use the silicon packets that you find in shipping boxes of electronics.

For greasing the inside of a reel, try to find a light grease that will not break down in the heat and will not become stiff in the cold. The grease that I prefer to use is a blue grease, available at most tackle shops. Daiwa puts it out in a handy little greaser that is quick and easy to use. Do not use the heavy industrial or axle grease. This will do nothing but harden on the inside of the reel making cranking very difficult.

In a pinch, Vaseline will make a good lubricant for the inside of the reel. Remember the most important rule for lubricating your reel. **Do not over lubricate.**

At the end of each season, all your reels should be completely torn down, degreased, inspected for worn parts, reassembled and re-greased. This makes for a good winter project when all we can do is think about open water fishing. After this task is completed, your reels will be ready for opening day and your fishing should be trouble free.

When I am about to reveal to you may sound a bit strange, but it does work and if you think about it, it makes sense. At the end of the season, I strip down my reels and degrease them. Next I lube them with toothpaste. That's right, toothpaste. I crank them for a period of time, strip them down again and re-grease them

with blue grease. What the toothpaste does is to polish the inside gears and get rid of any hardened deposits that might otherwise go unnoticed. This helps to keep the reels running smoothly.

Granted this will add another step to the process of cleaning reels, but I feel that it is well worth the time and effort. As I use my fishing gear a lot and put it through more abuse than the average fisherman, I want my reels to be in top-notch shape. I need every advantage that I can get and cannot afford problems.

Complete reel cleaning can be done by just about anyone. If you are one of those people that has all thumbs when it comes to working with small parts, then I suggest you take your reels to the local tackle shop and let them clean your reel for you. Nothing is more frustrating to the reel mechanic to receive what is common called a "bag job." That is when the customer brings his reel in in a paper bag, nothing but a bunch of parts.

Just about anybody can clean a spinning reel, the simplest of reels to clean. First, take off the handle and then pull the side plate. Place all parts on a table in a line as you take the reel apart. At the end, the reel will go together just as you took it apart. Under the side plate you will find the main gear and the main shaft. The main gear will be the next part to come out. There will be a small screw at the end of the main shaft. This will be the next part to undo. Once the screw is out, the main shaft will slide out by pulling it from under the spool (which has already been removed).

Now the oscillating mechanism may be removed. The only parts left in the reel will stay there. Next remove the nut above the rotor and the rotor will slip off exposing the anti-reverse mechanism. This whole section (the anti-reverse) of the reel can be cleaned with a brush leaving everything intact.

Now that the reel is disassembled all the parts can be cleaned with a brush and kerosene or some other degreasing solvent. Be careful not to have open flame or cigarettes nearby as these solvents are highly flammable. Also make sure you are working in a well ventilated area. Once all the reel parts are cleaned, you can reassemble the reel. Put everything back in the opposite order that you took it apart. Remember, you laid all the parts out in a line? Start at the opposite end and work back. Everything should go back nice and easy.

As you are re-assembling the reel, lightly grease all the parts and make sure that a thin coating of grease is worked on the whole internal casing of the reel. This will help to protect the metal from any water that will get into the reel during the season.

Just by taking the time to go over your reels thoroughly, you have almost guaranteed a trouble-free spring fishing season. It is also a good way to make use of those cold winter nights that seem to drag on endlessly.

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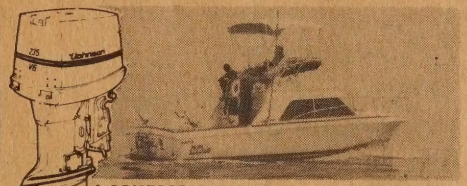

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LOW COST STEELHEAD LURES

by Jim White & John Jollie

The reclaiming of the Lake Ontario area of upstate New York has become a booming success. The introduction of the Washington State strain of migrating rainbow trout, also called steelhead trout, has turned the area into the the steelhead center of the United States.

As more and more fishermen try their hand at this new fishery, more and more methods of taking steelhead are being discovered. Novices and experts alike are learning more about how to fish in these often shallow and relatively short steelhead waters.

The steelhead in the Great Lakes rivers are more wary than the West Coast fish. The rivers that they inhabit in the Great Lakes region are often clear and shallow in comparison which make them shy away from heavy monofilament lines. There is also heavier fishing pressure per mile of river than there is on the West Coast.

So, with the need of lighter lines comes the need for lighter, longer, more sensitive rods. Along with the lighter lines, the longer rods, are varied spinners, streamers, plugs, spoons, etc.

It was the use of light leaders, often four pound test and never heavier than six pound test that led us to the realization that we could go broke buying tackle and feeding it to the river. The river is filled with snags, boulders, rocks, trees and outsized fish that wait to gobble up your expensive plugs, bait and hooks.

I was on the phone this morning with Tony Gugino, owner of Tony's Salmon Country Sports in Pulaski, New York and he informed me that fish have been taken on rubber hellgramites in varied colors and on rubber worms. These baits are generally considered warm water species baits and not the kind you would find in a cold water trout and salmon river. There seems to be no hard and fast rules on the type of lures you are confined to using. Many of the lures you can use can be made at home in your leisure time with components bought either locally in your favorite tackle shop or out of one of the many tackle catalogs available to you.

We will tell you about a few basic steelhead baits that can be made by you. You could also modify them to your own specifications just as we did when we first started making our own.

The first bait that we will tell you about is nothing more than a thumb nail size piece of cellulose sponge, spray painted either fluorescent orange or fluorescent green. These

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pieces of sponge are used the same way as you would the salmon egg sacs that they imitate. We have seen these same baits selling in tackle shops for up to $1.69 for a dozen. For $1.69 you could make enough to last a year. These sponge baits are easier to use than the real egg sacs because they remain buoyant in the current so it isn't necessary to perfect the "feel" of the bait bouncing over the river bottom, which is where your bait has to be in order to catch steelhead.

Variations of a largemouth bass plug that we have all used was discovered some time ago to work well in the rivers on steelhead. That lure is the Flatfish made by the Helin Co. Flatfish type bodies can be purchased through a couple of catalogs in bulk at a savings of about 75 percent. These bodies need to be painted and to have hooks and swivels added. These lures as built at home are probably better than the original because they can be built stronger. The original Flatfish was not built with the steelhead in mind. These fish can deliver punishment to your tackle like no other freshwater game fish that comes to mind. The first time that we used Flatfish in the river we had the hooks ripped from the plug by a steelhead, that needless to say, escaped capture.

Spinners such as the old Abu-Reflex and Roostertails have long been fish producing. We had occasion to meet a fisherman from Pennsylvania while fishing on the Salmon River in New York a couple of years ago who fishes with nothing but his own homemade spinners. He gave us one of those spinners and it became our model. Spinners can be made for as little as 25 cents apiece. This is great, considering that on one trip fishing we lose on the average of a dozen apiece.

There are many different sizes and shapes of blades, beads, and bodies, so the variations are limitless. We generally use a willow leaf blade in a size 5, although the Indiana type blade and the Colorado type blades seem to work almost as well. We use a variety of body weight combinations to suit the water conditions, but usually a body of 1/4 ounce is best. Along with some red and orange glass beads in 6mm and 8mm plus a good strong treble hook and the spinner is complete.

It is important to be flexible when fishing the rivers for steelhead. By being flexible, I mean in your tackle. What caught fish yesterday may not catch fish today. We have on occasion seen a dozen steelhead in a pool refuse almost every color salmon egg, egg sac, grub, Hot Shot, and fly only to be taken on a blue Tadpolly and only a blue Tadpolly. It seems that for some reason, unknown to us or anyone that we have talked to, they at times turn on to a certain bait and only that bait will take fish. You could have $1,000 worth of tackle and still go fishless. So, for most of us the only way to be flexible enough is to make our own.

FISHING FOR SHARKS

BY PETE BARRETT

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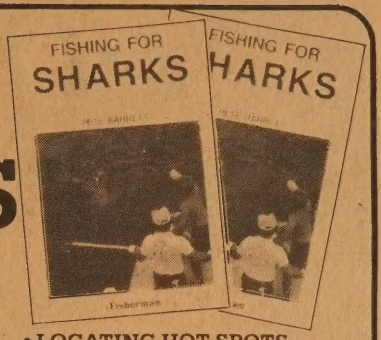

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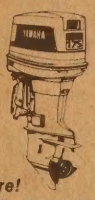

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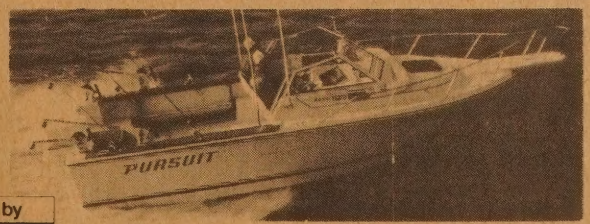

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HOW TO MAKE POPPERS FOR PENNIES

by David Pickering

Have you checked the prices of plugs in the tackle shops lately? Their costs seem to be rising to the point of being ridiculous. How you keep up with it, especially after a bluefish blitz wipes out half the surf bag? The way I see it, there are three choices for the fisherman/consumer: give up fishing, get a second job to pay for equipment, or make your own.

I've never been sold on the durability of most expensive store bought lures. Most of the plastic type lures sold today are just not all that they're cracked up to be. Wood, however, has always held a special place, a time proven permanence, in salt water lures. Wood plugs are able to take a pounding in a rocky surf unmatched by plastic imitators. Wood's toughness, proven by the fact that many of my plugs are nearing their sixth coat of paint and still fooling fish, is unmatched.

So, why don't we see more of these lures selling in the tackle shops these days? Simply speaking, plastic is cheaper and easier to produce. Certainly not as durable as wood, these modern day lures satisfy the fisherman's needs at a cost. Wood plugs, particularly those that are wired and weighted, are just too costly to produce. Therefore, the only way to get these lures is to make them yourself.

This should not scare away all you non-handymen because with a few simple tools and practice, fine wood plugs can be yours for pennies. The tools needed for such a winter evening's venture include an electric drill (a drill press is even better), a few drill bits, a vise, and a drilling attachment called a rasp. That's about it except for building materials which include dowel wood, brass wire, paint, lead and treble hooks.

This article will specifically deal with making two ounce standard poppers since they are by far the simplest plugs to produce. They are also the most popular for bluefish in the surf. Furthermore, the basic techniques used in their construction can be applied to making pencil and polaris poppers as well as the needlefish.

Begin by cutting five inch sections out of dowel wood (one inch) or a scrap broom handle. Such cutting should be fairly perpendicular and can be done on a table saw or by use of a miter box.

Now, a hole for a front swivel and hook should be drilled with 1/4 inch drill bit. Its depth should be at least half the thickness of the dowel and its location about three inches from the bottom.

Next, find the center of the circular top and bottom of the dowel section and mark it. With the dowel secured in a vise, drill it using a standard 1/8 inch drill bit. These holes need to be as close to perpendicular as possible. With a hand drill, you'll miss on about a quarter of the dowels. If you use a drill press, you'll rarely miss. Drill out the top third of the plug to the hook hole. Flip the dowel over and drill the bottom part as far as you can go. Now finish off the job with a six inch long (1/8) drill bit. At this point, it's a good idea to hold the plug up to a light and peek through the drilled holes. If you can see through the cylindrical hole, it's just right; if not, toss out the dowel and start over. I'd advise parcticing on scrap broom handles until you perfect this most difficult, yet important step.

Next, the front of the popper can be angle cut if preferred. On a table saw, I'll angle the front to 30 degrees. An inexpensive miter box will produce a neat 45 degree cut. Make sure that this cut lines up with the front hook hole. Note that this step is optional since I've seen many poppers not angled and they've been rumored to create quite a splash!

The next step involves shaping the rear and front. The rear is simply whittled into a pointed shape with a sharp knife and then sanded smoothly. The front is beveled inward so as to accentuate the popper's splash. This is achieved by securing the plug into a vise and drilling in the front surface with a ball-shaped bit called a rasp.

At this point, the plug body should be ready for weighting. Although there are many ways to do this, I find that four holes drilled and filled with lead to be the easiest. The four holes may be drilled in the rear half of the plug with the 1¼ inch bit. Two are underneath (lined up with the hook hole) and the other two are on the sides. If you drill these holes too deeply and lead them, you may have to redrill the center cylinder before wiring the lure. Also, to make a perfect looking plug, the lead may have to be sanded and some holes may need filling with plastic wood. I'll now weigh the plugs on a scale. If more weight is desired, I'll simply drill and add more lead. There are no hard and fast rules to weighting. Many of my plugs have from two to five lead holes depending on the weight desired.

At this point, I'll paint the plug body although this step can be delayed till the end. A primer is advised followed by two coats of paint. I'd rate the colors of light blue, yellow and white to be best, but since this plug-making is a personal venture—it's your choice.

Now it's time to assemble the plug. For wiring, I use brass wire specifically manufactured for this purpose, although this can be difficult to obtain. I get mine from Murat's Tackle Shop in North Smithfield, R.I.

The wire's front eye is formed first by bending the wire around a big nail. There should be about an inch of additional wire overlap to insert in the plug's front. Push the wire into the plug making sure to "catch" the barrel swivel which has been inserted into the front hook hole. Pull the wire firmly and now loop the wire part that extends out the back of the plug around a nail. Wrap the wire securely several times to form the rear eye. Snip away the excess.

Finish off the plug by crimping treble hooks in the front and rear. For the plug described above, I use size 2/0 hooks.

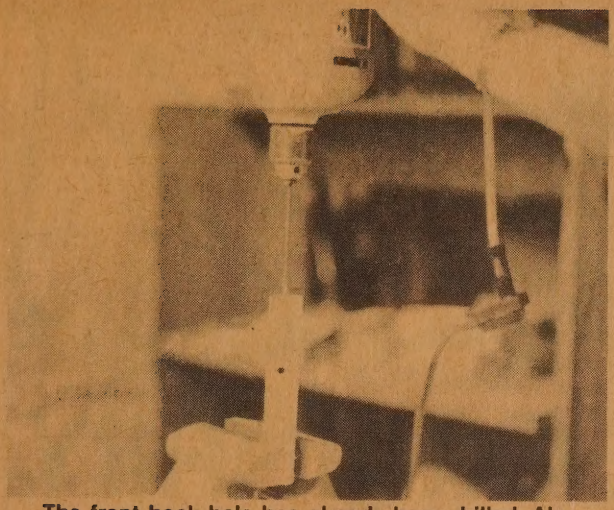
Of course, such additions as eyes, scales, fins, flashy colors, bucktails, etc., may be added to your popper, although such graphics tend to be simply an exercise in artistic creativity.

Variations on this basic popper can now lead to many different models. The dowel's length, thickness, and shape may be changed to come up with pencil poppers, polaris poppers, and needlefish. In each model, the popper's general wired construction remains the same.

Personal plug-making opens up many new possibilities in design and color. It also saves money. Just think about the last time a brand new seven dollar plug snapped off or snagged the bottom or cracked up on its first encounter with a rock. For a total of about fifty cents per popper, these homemade lures can be yours.

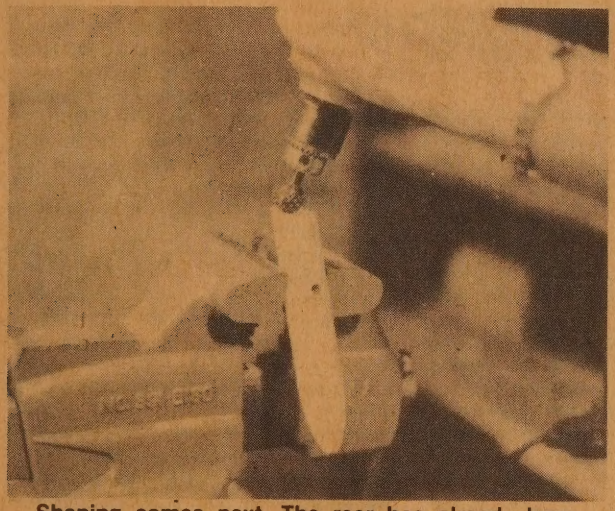
And, do they work? I have personally met several 18 pound bluefish that could attest to their effectiveness.

Can you think of any better time than a wintry evening to fashion a few?



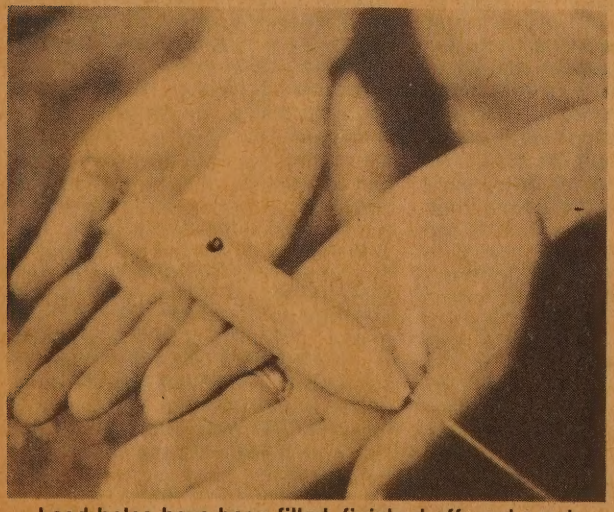
The front hook hole has already been drilled. Also, the wire hole has been started with a regular sized one-eighth inch drill bit. Now, the six inch drill bit finishes off the job.

Look into a light to see if the rear drilled cylinder lines up with the front part. Start over if it doesn't.

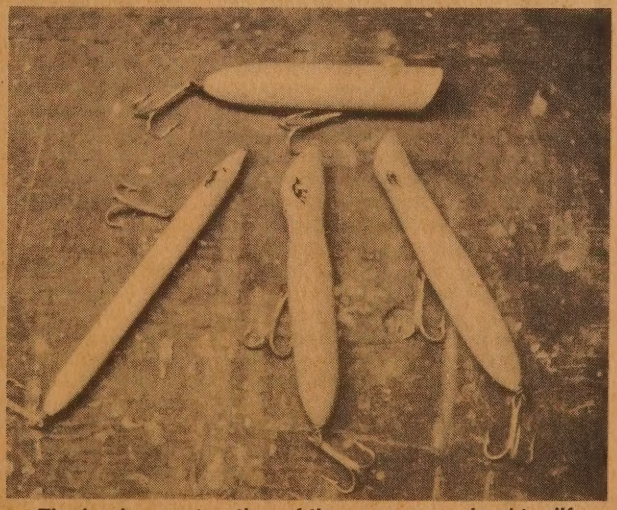


Shaping comes next. The rear has already been whittled and sanded, and the front has been angle cut. Beveling the front inward with a rasp comes next.

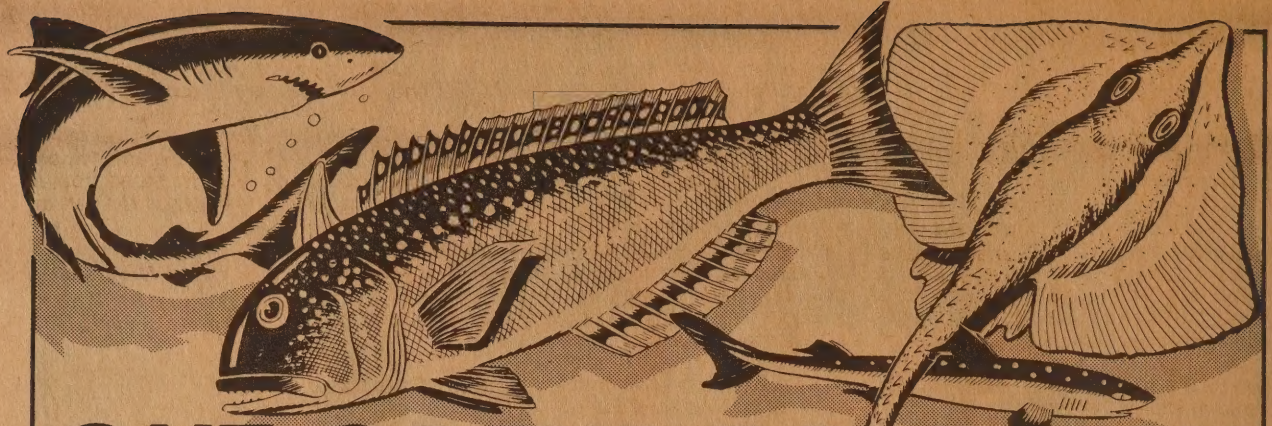
Weighting involves filling a series of drilled holes with lead. The number of holes depends on the weight desired.



Lead holes have been filled, finished off, and sanded. The plug is then wired. Note the barrel swivel caught by the wire in the front hook hole.



The basic construction of the popper can lead to different models. Here are examples of the needlefish, the polaris popper, and a pencil popper.



OUT OF THE ORDINARY SEAFOOD TREATS

by Linda J. O'Dierno

Familiar fish are often out of sight, but unfamiliar fish can be a fairly good buy. Take a tip from some gourmet chefs and try some ocean oddities.

There are over 400 species of seafood available in American markets, but very few consumers are familiar with more than a few of the more common varieties. Thanks to the perseverance of the more cosmopolitan restaurants and the daring of some savvy home chefs, more and more of these exotic fish are finding their way onto the American dinner table.

Monkfish is probably one of the ugliest denizens of the deep. Also known as bellyfish, lotte, baudroie, goosefish, fishing frog, allmouth and anglerfish, the monkfish resembles a giant tadpole with a huge mouth and a built-in fishing lure. As it rests on the ocean bottom, it waves a stalk-like project, complete with what looks like bait, above its mouth. Once an unwary animal comes close enough to investigate the lure, the huge jaws snap shut. Only the tail of this fish is sold and fishermen routinely discard the body at sea, so most of us never have the opportunity to see a whole monkfish in all its glory. The white, firm, fleshy tails have only one central bone, which makes it ideal for the American market.

Lotte Almondine
(serves 4)

4 - 6 oz. pieces monkfish fillets
3 cups dried bread crumbs
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
1 cup sliced almonds
1/4 cup clarified butter or vegetable oil
1/2 cup flour, seasoned with salt & pepper
2 cups milk
1 stick sweet butter

Trim off the outer membrane of the monkfish (if your fish dealer has not done so). Place between sheets of waxed paper and pound until the pieces are about 1/8 inch thick.

Mix bread crumbs, Parmesan chees, parsley and almonds. Dip monkfish into seasoned flour, then into the milk and finally into the bread crumb mixture.

Heat 1/4 cup butter or oil in a saute pan until it just begins to smoke. Saute the monkfish about 2 to 3 minutes per side until light brown. In a separate pan, melt the stick of sweet butter until golden brown. Pour over fillets and serve.

* * *

Tilefish is a very attractive fish with a violet-grey skin flecked with yellow spots. It is a deep water fish netted off the Continental Shelf. The flesh is dense, moist, white and well textured and is often used as a substitute for the much more expensive red snapper. Tilefish is available as both fillets and steaks and can easily be used in a variety of recipes that call for snapper or cod. The firmness of its flesh makes it ideal for seafood stews such as bouillabaisse, zarzuela and cioppino.

Baked Tilefish with Mushrooms, Scallions and Dill
(serves 6)

2 lbs. tilefish fillets, 6 pieces
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/2 cup softened butter
1 lb. small, fresh button mushrooms
8-10 scallions, thinly sliced (about 1 cup)
1/4 cup minced fresh dill

Place fish in a buttered baking pan, season with the pepper and spread 2 tablespoons butter over the fish. Set aside. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

In a skillet, melt 3 tablespoons of the butter and add the scallions. Cook, stirring, for one minute; add the remaining butter to the pan, and add the mushrooms. Continue cooking, shaking the pan until all the butter is absorbed; then add the dill and stir. Spoon over the fish and bake, basting several times with the accumulated pan juices, about 8-10 minutes per inch of fish thickness.

* * *

Mako shark is similar in taste and texture to swordfish. Many people actually prefer the shark because it is often moister and has a more delicate flavor. Mako shark is generally marketed as steaks and can be substituted in any swordfish recipe. Because of its firm texture, it is also a good candidate for skewered dishes and works well at summer barbecues.

Shark is one of the traditional fish for "Fish and Chips" in Europe and is often used in Mexican seviche, which is raw fish marinated in citrus juices.

Another shark that is available in some markets is the dogfish, sometimes marketed as grey fish or ocean grey. This is a smaller shark. If you are concerned about fish bones, sharks are ideal since they have only one central cartilaginous bone.

To ensure the best possible flavor, it is usually a good idea to marinate shark in lemon juice diluted with water for a few hours before cooking.

Barbecued Mako Shark with Green Peppercorn Butter
(serves 4)

4 - 4 oz. shark steaks
juice of one lemon
2/3 cup olive oil
1 stick sweet butter, softened
salt & pepper to taste
1 tbs Dijon mustard
1 tsp chopped fresh parsley

1 tsp chopped fresh chives
2 tsp green peppercorns
1 tsp brandy

Marinate shark steaks in lemon juice and olive oil for one hour. Meanwhile, blend softened butter with remaining ingredients. Roll in waxed paper or aluminum foil to form a cylinder. Chill and slice down into individual rounds. Grill shark steaks about four inches from a glowing charcoal fire. Steaks should take about 10 minutes per inch of thickness. Because barbecue fires tend to heat unevenly, check often. When steaks are cooked, place sliced butter pats on top and serve.

Ocean Grey Kebobs
(serves 6)

2 lbs. dogfish
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup dry white wine
3 tbs lemon juice
1/2 tsp dried dill OR
1 tsp chopped fresh dill
1/2 tsp chervil
paprika
2 green peppers cut into squares
lemon wedges
2 thin yellow summer squash, sliced in 1½ inch pieces

Cut fish into one inch cubes and rinse well with water. Prepare marinade by mixing vegetable oil, white wine, lemon juice, dill and chervil in a dish large enough to hold the fish. Place fish cubes in marinade and soak for one hour or more.

Thread fish cubes on skewers, alternating with summer squash and pepper. Sprinkle lightly with paprika. Broil or grill for 10 minutes. Baste frequently with marinade. Serve with lemon wedges and/or tartar sauce.

* * *

Although skate is well known in France, where it is marketed under the name raie, only a few American gourmets have discovered it. This is unfortunate, since its excellent flavor and texture make it a delicious substitute for scallops. A flattened relative of the shark, skate is usually marketed in the form of skate "wings," the two halves of this round fish.

Skate wings are excellent when poached or prepared in brown butter. They are sometimes sold with the skin and an outer ring of fins attached; the fins should be cut with scissors and then the skin can easily be removed from the cooked fish. Each wing usually weighs between 1 and 1½ pounds. There is a horizontal layer of cartilage running through the wing and if you attempt to fillet the fish, the meat separates into long, white strands.

Skate is one fish that improves by refrigerating for 48 to 72 hours before cooking and then marinating overnight in a lemon juice solution.

Skate with Brown Butter
(serves 4)

2½ lbs. skate (wings) cut into serving pieces
For Court Bouillon:
1 med. onion, thinly sliced
1 small pinch of thyme
1/2 tbs black peppercorns
2 tbs salt
3 tbs vinegar
For Brown Butter:
1/3 cup butter
1 tbs chopped parsley
1 tbs capers, well drained
1/2 tbs lemon juice
dash of Tabasco sauce (optional)

Rinse fish with cold water, place in a saucepan, pour boiling water over fish. Let stand for a few seconds, drain. Cover fish with cold water, add all court bouillon ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove from heat, drain. Place fish on a boat, slip the skin off—it comes off very easily. Then, with a spatula, separate the meat from the cartilaginous "bones." Do it gently to remove the meat in attractive, whole pieces. Place on serving dish and keep warm.

In a skillet, heat butter until it foams and starts to turn light brown. Add all other ingredients, blend and pour sizzling hot over the fish.

* * *

Long a well-kept secret of the French, Italians and a few American gourmets, the blue mussel is gradually becoming popular fare. Mussels rate high in flavor and nutrition, but are low in cost and calories.

In Europe, mussel farming is big business, and some American firms are becoming involved in this lucrative venture. On both coasts, however, native mussels are both plentiful and inexpensive.

If you are enticed to try mussels at home, here are a few tips. When buying mussels, make sure that the shells are closed. If you hold the mussel between your index finger and thumb, you should not be able to make the shell slide sideways. Weak muscles holding the shell closed are a sign that the mussel is past its prime. Like all fresh seafood, mussels should be used as soon after buying as possible to ensure top quality.

Start with a good washing, then scrape off any seaweed or barnacles with a scrub brush. Notice the "beard" or byssus threads, which mussels use to attach themselves to rocks and pilings. You can remove these threads by pulling them from the narrow end of the shell toward the broader end.

Discard any mussels that have cracked or broken shells. Test any mussels with gaping shells by tapping them. If they don't close quickly, discard them. Mussel shells that feel light are probably empty. Those that feel heavy are probably full of sand.

Soak the mussels in a bowl of cold water for about five minutes. If there is sand in the bowl, repeat the procedure. For the final rinse, add about four or five tablespoons of flour to one gallon of water. Soak the mussels in this solution for 20 minutes; the mussels will feed on the flour and release more sand.

Since mussels tend to toughen up and dry out after cooking, don't attempt to keep them warm.

The classic French recipe that follows is easy to prepare and, when accompanied by French bread and a salad, makes a marvelous dinner at home.

Mussels in White Wine
(serves 4)

2 lbs. mussels (about 2½ dozen, according to size)
1/2 cup white wine
2 tbs sweet butter
1 tsp fennel seeds
1/2 tsp thyme leaf
1½ tbs minced garlic, very finely chopped
2 bay leaves, crumbled
1½ tbs shallots or onions, finely chopped

Combine all ingredients in a kettle, cover, and bring to a boil. Steam 4 to 5 minutes or just until the mussels open. Do not overcook. Use a skimmer to transfer the mussels to a serving bowl. Let the liquid stand for a minute or two and then pour over the mussels. Be careful not to add any sand that may have settled out.

Moules in Basil Mayonnaise
(serves 8 as an appetizer)

1 recipe Mussels in White Wine
1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup fresh basil, finely chopped

Strain the mussels and reduce the liquid to 1/8 cup (about 2 tablespoons). Remove the mussels from the shells. Pull the black rims off half of the shells. Add the liquid to 1 cup of mayonnaise (either homemade or a good quality commercial brand) and 1/2 cup finely chopped basil. Blend well. Return mussels to shells and mask with basil mayonnaise.

Mussel Pasta Primavera
(serves 4)

1 recipe Mussels in White Wine
4 tbs sweet butter
1/2 bunch scallions, finely chopped
2 red peppers, cut in thin strips
1/2 lb. mushrooms, thinly sliced
1/2 cup dry white wine
1 cup heavy cream
1/2 lb. cappellini (angel hair pasta) or vermicelli
1 cup fresh or frozen peas
salt & pepper to taste
2 tbs each chopped dill and parsley (preferably fresh)

Separate mussels from liquid and reserve both. Saute scallions in butter for 4 to 5 minutes. Add pepper strips and saute 4 minutes more. Add mushrooms and continue sauteing for 4 minutes. Add white wine and mussel liquid and reduce by half. Add cream and again reduce by half.

Cook pasta in boiling salted water for 4 minutes or until al dente. Rinse in lukewarm water. Meanwhile, cook peas.

Gently toss together sauce, pasta, peas and mussels. Season to taste and briefly heat through. Garnish with parsley and dill, and serve.

RECORD BREAKERS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 14 LB. ATLANTIC BONITO CAUGHT RECENTLY BY ARNOLD "MANNY" WEINSTOCK OF N.Y. CITY FISHING OFF MONTAUK COULD HAVE BEEN AN IGFA RECORD FOR 12 LB. TEST LINE IF MANNY HAD ENTERED THE FISH INSTEAD OF EATING IT, AS HE WRITES US! THIS MESSAGE IS FOR MANNY— 12 LB. LINE... ...FOR TACKLE ...RECORDS FOR BONITO ARE 13½ LBS. FOR MEN AND 8 LB. 1 OZ. WOMEN. THE ALL-RECORD IS 18 LB. 4 OZ.

AN 18 LB. 6 OZ. BLUEFISH IS A NEW IGFA WORLD RECORD FOR CHOPPERS ON THE 8 LB. TIPPET CLASS. IT WAS LANDED BY FLY FISHERMAN GREGORY J. ESSAYAN DOING HIS THING AT MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASS.

A 1 LB. 6 OZ. SUNFISH ON 6 LB. LINE IS THE NEW IGFA ALL-TACKLE WORLD RECORD FOR PUMPKINSEEDS. IT WAS CAUGHT BY 9-YEAR-OLD HEATHER ANN FINCH OF PARISH, N.Y. FISHING WORMS IN A FARM POND. SHE ALSO WON THE COIN TOSS THAT PERSUADED HER FATHER TO TAKE HER FISHING ON A SUMMER SATURDAY MORNING!

A 2 LB. 4 OZ. BROOK TROUT RECEIVED AN AWARD IN THE SKILLFUL ANGLER PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH, GAME AND WILDLIFE. IT WAS LANDED BY 7-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL R. TOTH OF TRENTON FISHING NIGHTCRAWLERS IN AMWELL LAKE.

A 36 LB. 12 OZ. POLLACK IS THE IGFA WORLD RECORD FOR THESE FISH ON 4 LB. TEST LINE. BY BRADFORD A. PERKINS AT OGUNQUIT, MAINE. ON THE SAME DAY AT THE SAME PLACE, WILLIAM A. TOWER III WON THE... ...IGFA 8 LB. LINE RECORD WITH A 34 LB. 4 OZ. POLLACK.

A 34 LB. LONGBILL SPEARFISH WAS THE FIRST EVER LANDED IN SOUTH CAROLINA BY A SPORT FISHERMAN WITH OR WITHOUT A LINE. HAYDEN McDOWELL, AN EXPERIENCED OFFSHORE FISHERMAN, USED HIS BARE HANDS TO CATCH THE RARE 6 FT. 9 IN. FISH 30 YARDS OFF SULLIVAN ISLAND BEACH AND DRAGGED THE FLAILING FISH ASHORE BY THE TAIL!

SPECIAL NOTICE:

INFORMATION ON CAUMSETT STATE PARK PERMITS FOR 1986

Permits for Caumsett State Park will be issued according to the following program.

1. On January 2, 1986, a total of 250 permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis at the Belmont Lake State Park office. Use Exit 38 off the Southern State Parkway.

2. On February 20, 1986, a lottery will be held for an additional 200 permits. Applications for the lottery will be available beginning Monday, January 20, 1986 at Caumsett State Park and at Commission headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park. Applications may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Caumsett Fishing, Box 247, Babylon, NY 11702.

Applications for the lottery must be submitted not later than the close of business Tuesday, February 18, 1986. One application per person/vehicle/household only. Duplications will result in cancellation of **all** applications for person/vehicle/household.

A drawing will be held at 2PM on Thursday, February 20, 1986 at Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission Headquarters, Babylon, NY, at which time applications will be assigned numbers according to the order in which they are drawn, up to 300. Permits will be issued to the first 200 applications drawn, the next 100 applications drawn will be placed on a waiting list.

A $20 fee is NOT submitted with the application. Following the drawing on February 20, all applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have been drawn to be eligible for a permit. The 200 successful applicants will be required to pay the $20 fee no later than Monday, March 3, 1986 and will receive the permit by return mail.

East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Weekend gale force winds and resulting bad seas cancelled many fishing trips. Anglers who managed to get out between windstorms found that mackerel have made an appearance at Block Island, a couple of weeks later than usual. Codfish catches are picking up, both at Montauk and off SHinnecock. Blackfish won't quit. Very large blackfish are still entrenched at Fisher's, Cerebus and Southwest Ledge. Very few reports of flounder have come in, but last year, good action with these fish took place Christmas week.

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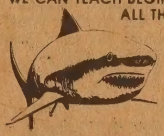

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MONTAUK

Carl Darenberg reports little fishing activity from the **Montauk Marine Basin** the past week, due mostly to high winds. However, the fall run of mackerel is beginning to arrive at Block Island, about two weeks later than last year. A few cod have been picked up at the Island, along with lots of blackfish. Expectations are that January will show a good cod run. The charter boats **Montauk** and **Kellyboat** are still in the water for cod, mackerel, blackfish charters. Because of increased interest in wind/weather conditions, the **Montauk Marine Basin** has stocked a large assortment of wind instruments for power and sail boats, as well as for home use, a possible Christmas gift for the boater/sailor on your list. In time for Christmas, all offshore tackle is on sale 40 percent off, and a good supply of warm codfishing clothing is in stock.

Eric, Tom, Phil, Joe, Tim anD Bob with five stripers taken at Great Eastern aboard the Montauk charter boat, "Adios."

Captain Mike and Christina Albronda are the proud parents of a 7 lb. 15 oz. son: Christopher Michael, who arrived on the scene last week. This

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may be the start of a fishing dynasty on the charter boat **Montauk!**

Maureen Sennefelder wishes all readers and customers a Happy Holiday Season. **Gone Fishing Marina**, although closed for the season, is making major alterations and constructing a huge addition in order to meet the needs of its customers when the marina opens for the spring season in April.

Neither the **Viking** or **Marlin** cod boats sailed this past weekend because of gale winds and horrendous seas. However, both boats will be sailing for cod throughout December, with special sailings Christmas week. Call for specifics.

Len Duffy, speaking for **Captains Cove Marina**, stated that to date blackfishing has been excellent both at Southwest Ledge and Cerebus Shoals. Mackerel have showed up at Block Island, with codfish making an appearance. The charter boat **Joy-Sea** is still in the water and is booking charters for Christmas cod and blackfish.

Captain Mike Bentevegna, Jr. of the charter boat, **Pronto**, wishes Holiday greetings to all his friends and customers with a thank you for a very successful year. The **Pronto** is still available for charters, and will be in the water until ice forms in the back of the Lake. Look for Captain Mike at the winter shows.

SOUTH FORK

Not much news from the South Fork, since apparently anglers have switched to shopping and hunting. There was some talk of about a dozen codfish jigged on "hangs" out of Shinnecock early last week, with 8 oz. diamond jigs doing the trick. Flounder die-hards are finding small fish in Quogue Canal; a small amount of larger flatties at Heddy Creek and Three Mile Harbor.

On the **Wilhelric's last trips** on Dec. 14-15, Capt. Artie Lach reported seeing the largest blackfish brought aboard the boat this season, caught by Ralph from City Island. Looks like everyone is leaving the blackfish biting! Captain Lach wishes all his friends Happy Holidays and will be fishing for flounder beginning the last week in March.

Last Friday, at the crack of dawn, this lady reporter finally reached the pits—a goose pit, that is. Captain Artie Lach, with Captains Paul Forsberg Jr. and Sr. spent a couple of hours shooting geese; the captains with shotguns, myself with my video camera. The morning's effort resulted in 8 geese before calling it a day at 8AM.

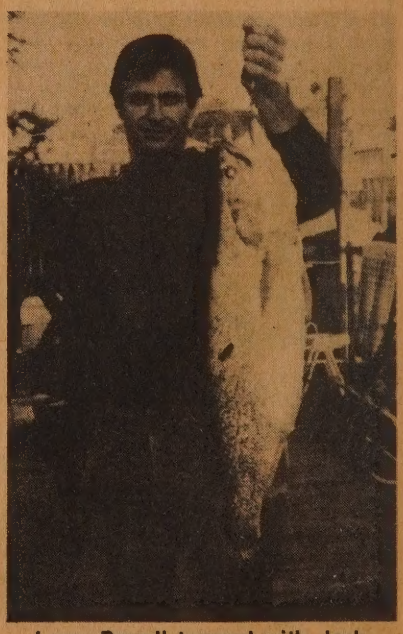
Highlights of this shoot will be shown on **Fishing Forecast** someime in January. For information on my TV program or to give me winter fishing reports, call me at (516) 928-1347.

On behalf on myself and all the advertisers who support this column, we extend Season's Greetings. See you again in the spring.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

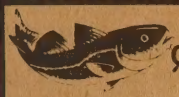
There was obviously very little doing on the fishing front this past week and weekend. Wintery cold and strong northwest winds kept what few boats that remain in the water in the barn with very few exceptions. We did receive a good flounder report from Moriches Bay back during the middle of last week but nothing further since then. It might be worth noting that there has been some very fine



Larry Powell teamed with Jack Atwell of Sportsman's Cafe in Freeport to take this huge 15 lb. tiderunner weak. It grabbed a live bunker fished near the Meadowbrook Bridge. Subscriber photo.

5 A.M. & 6 A.M. WEEKDAYS **CAPTREE BOAT BASIN** 5 A.M. WEEKENDS

FISHING FIRE ISLAND WRECKS



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flounder fishing in the bay, followed by a good run of fish in the Quogue Canal during late December and January in recent years.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Speaking from **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Joe Modica reported that locally everything has been pretty dead with ice reported on the Patchogue River on Sunday morning. A few guys have been out trying for sea run trout and white perch. Norman Sacente checked in with a 19 inch brown trout this week. Joe felt sure it came from Tuthil's Creek.

Al Colban at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** reported he has not been hearing much of anything of late. The only scant news concerned a few good sized flounder being taken by clammers working off of Heckscher and East Islip. On the freshwater scene, a good number of 1-2 pound trout being taken at Bubbles Falls and Rattlesnake Creek on the Connetquot on Mepps spinner and nightcrawler combos. A few nice perch beginning to be picked in the Connetquot as well.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree** open boat **Captree Queen II** said that despite difficult weather conditions on the weekend, codfish action did show signs of taking a turn for the better. He also added that Captree's Cod Dock Pool has paid over $500 to the winning angler each of the last two weeks. George Forgione won last week's pool with a 32.7 pound cod while Steve Weiss copped this past week's prize with a 28.12 pounder. Gordon reminded that the Dock Pool will continue at least through Christmas and New Year's weeks. See the ad on page 35 for details.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** reported picky action during the early part of the week but a nice showing of fish of late. On Friday over 50 cod including a 44 pounder and a 31 pound pollock were taken. On Sunday, under far from ideal conditions, more than 50 fish again came over the rail. High hooks for Sunday counted 13 and 15 cod each in their bags. Most all of the fish have been ranging from the mid teens

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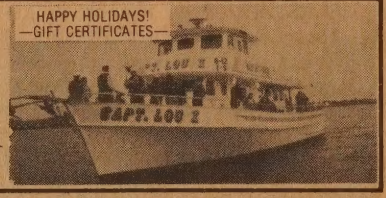

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into the 20 pound class. A few big blackfish still mixed with the cod on the wrecks.

Capt. Carl Passaro of the open boat **Miss Captree** reported that Saturday's attempt at blackfishing outside Fire Island Inlet was kept very brief by gale force winds. On Sunday, despite gusty winds, 8 fares counted approximately 175 blacks of mixed sizes and up to 7 pounds for their efforts. Six cod to 15 pounds were also taken during the trip. Fishing was done over a local wrecks. High hook on Sunday was George Forgione with 17 blackfish and 1 cod.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Tom Healy reported on the results of Babylon Tuna Club's Weekend Cod Derby. Steve "The Codfather" Weiss won top honors with a 28.2 pound cod which he decked aboard the Capt. Scotty on Sunday. He also had a fish of 26.6 and 19.7 pounds. The B.T.C. boat "Happy Hooker" wrapped up 2nd and 3rd places. 'Doc' Grell's 18½ pounder nailed down 2nd place while Capt. Phil Fraccalavieri took 3rd with a 17.12 pound cod. Bill Mahler who rounded out the crew on the Happy Hooker managed a 12 pound cod. The fishing was done on open bottom north of the NA buoy according to Tom. Aside from the cod action, Tom reported a few flounder again taken in the State Channel during the week but no reports for this weekend. A reminder that the shop is still stocked with worms and green crabs as blackfish continue to be taken on the ocean reef when the weather conditions permit. The entire crew from Augie's asked that we extend their best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year to all their friends and customers.

Jimmy Paulson took this 34 lb. striper at Montauk on a needlefish. It was weighed at Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

"Better than dead" is the way

Chester Shew summed up the week's fishing reports from **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague**. The only talk concerns a fair pick of cod, some on open bottom, but nothing that can really be confirmed.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

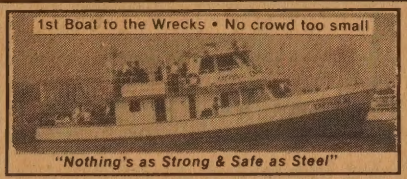
The only activity this week seems to have been on the cod fishery, with just a couple of people attempting flounder in the wind and cold. The open boat codfishing has resulted in catches of moderate numbers, but larger sized fish. The blues are about gone. We have also had a few excellent blackfish reports, with fish taken on wrecks and rocks.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Mike at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in Wantagh had a customer who fished Wednesday on a wreck in his own boat and had 6 cod in the teens on clam. Mike and three buddies

Eric Nyman decked this trophy 22 lb. 2 oz. blue at Cholera aboard the private boat, "J.C. Saves." Subscriber photo.

POINT LOOKOUT



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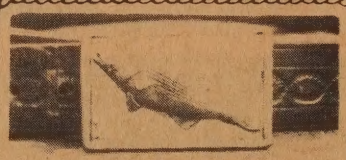

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fished 17 Fathoms during the week for blackfish and bagged 60 of the toothy critters up to 6 lbs. 12 oz.

At **Garan's Tackle** in Merrick, we hear that Randy Garan took the Tuesday pool on the Captree Queen with a 20 lb. cod. A catch of 30 jumbo flounder was had Wednesday at Zachs Bay on yellow dyed clams for Cory Snyder.

Sailing out of Freeport, Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** had at least a few cod on each trip sailed this week. Weather was horrendous on several days of the week said the skipper. On Wednesday 20 fares had 30 cod, while on Friday 9 hardy souls took 11 good cod in terrible conditions. Sunday's catch for 10 fares was 24 cod. Fish are averaging 15 lbs. with pools going into the 30s. Please note that the 42 lb. cod hoisted last Wednesday by Mr. Chapel was caught aboard the Starstream II. (We neglected to mention this in last week's report.)

Captain Mike Dannon of the **Captain Lou Fleet** asked us to let you know he will be sailing through December 22nd and he wishes happy holidays to all and he hopes to see you all again in March when the boat will resume sailing for spring flounder.

A call from the **Capt. Al** out of Point Lookout told of fair to good catches of big fish taken most of this week for small crowds. On Saturday Art Pagano of Hicksville took 4 cod to 35 lbs. Wednesday saw Kevin Brown of Cornwall, NY with a 36 lber. while Ed Boss of Goshen, NY had a 38. Massapequa angler Joe Golden had a couple of beasts of 36 and 37 lbs.

Bob Morrotta hefts a 43 lb. 14 oz. striper taken from the south shore surf on November 27th. Photo courtesy of Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook.

Terry Stewart, right, with one of the season's largest blacks. The big "tog" tipped the scale at Art White's, left, Bait Shop at 14.10 lbs. It was caught aboard the Nancy Ann II.

while Jim Feroldi of Roslyn took a 37 lber. also. Paul Barbeto of Howard Beach was satisfied with his 31 lber. On Thursday, Pete Carey of Massapequa had 7 cod to 45 lbs. Al said that while the numbers of fish caught have not been mind-boggling, most have been big, and with the small crowds sailing these days, particularly when the weather is not perfect, catches per man are usually greater. Al says come on down and stack up on some good codfish meals.

We hear from **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook that his brother Bill and a friend each had a cod fishing on the **Capt. Al** out of Point Lookout on Tuesday. A total of 12 fish were taken on the boat, 7 of which were caught on skirted cod hooks, with all colors catching. Fish ran 12 to 19 lbs.

NEW YORK BIGHT

The Wee Willie report from **Mike's Tackle** in Sheepshead Bay relayed the news of very good blackfishing Sunday at Seabright and 17 on green crabs with fish averaging 4 lbs. and going up to 9 lbs. The first showing of whiting has finally been taken, mixed in with ling but the ling still vastly predominate. More whiting should be mixed into the catch as the water continues to chill down.

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	1:25	1:40	2:30	2:40	2:15	2:25	3:25	3:40	5:45	6:10	5:00	5:25	1:20	1:45	12/19
FRI.	2:20	2:35	3:25	3:35	3:10	3:20	4:20	4:40	6:40	7:10	5:55	6:20	2:20	2:40	12/20
SAT.	3:15	3:30	4:20	4:30	4:00	4:15	5:15	5:35	7:35	8:05	6:50	7:15	3:10	3:30	12/21
SUN.	4:05	4:25	5:05	5:20	4:50	5:10	6:00	6:20	8:20	8:55	7:35	8:05	4:00	4:20	12/22
MON.	4:55	5:20	5:50	6:10	5:40	6:00	6:35	7:05	9:05	9:40	8:20	8:50	4:45	5:05	12/23
TUES.	5:40	6:05	6:30	6:50	6:20	6:45	7:15	7:45	9:50	10:20	9:05	9:35	5:30	5:50	12/24
WED.	6:20	6:45	7:10	7:30	7:00	7:25	7:50	8:20	10:20	10:55	9:45	10:15	6:15	6:35	12/25
THURS.	7:00	7:25	7:50	8:05	7:40	8:05	8:25	9:00	10:45	11:25	10:25	10:55	6:55	7:15	12/26

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/19	7:23	4:31
FRI. 12/20	7:23	4:31
SAT. 12/21	7:24	4:32
SUN. 12/22	7:24	4:32
MON. 12/23	7:25	4:32
TUE. 12/24	7:25	4:33
WED. 12/25	7:26	4:34

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/19	12:28PM	—
FRI. 12/20	12:48PM	12:53AM
SAT. 12/21	1:08PM	1:53AM
SUN. 12/22	1:31PM	2:54AM
MON. 12/23	1:50PM	3:56AM
TUE. 12/24	2:27PM	4:58AM
WED. 12/25	3:04PM	6:00AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
12/12	12/19	12/27	12/5

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	11:20	**5:10**	11:40	**5:30**
Fri.	11:55	**5:45**	—	**6:05**
Sat.	12:20	**6:25**	12:35	**6:45**
Sun.	1:00	**7:00**	1:10	**7:20**
Mon.	1:35	**7:40**	2:00	**8:00**
Tues.	2:15	**8:20**	2:30	**8:45**
Wed.	3:00	**9:05**	3:15	**9:30**
Thurs.	3:45	**9:55**	4:05	**10:20**

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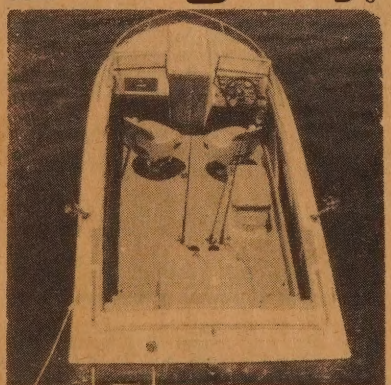

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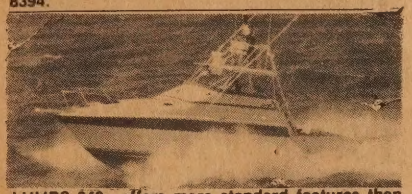

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1073 G/W Stingray 16 ', 85 hp Merc. 1977-$3500.

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1984 21' 6" CC, 125 hp Volvo I/O, VHF, DF, spray hood-$13,70

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1984 18' Closed Bow 70 hp 1985. Navy top. Brown acrylic bowrail-$8450

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OTHER USED BOATS

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1977 Eastward Ho sailboat 24', Volvo diesel-$24,500.

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1982 Renken 21' cuddy 140 OMC I/O-$8995

1979 Sea Ray 19' B/R V8 Merc I/O. Trailer-$8500

1982 Sportcraft 17' CC, 90 hp 1984-$7650

1974 Mako 19' CC, 115 Johnson 1980-$6950

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1981 Luger 21' Sailboat. 9.9 O/B, trailer-$6500

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1980 Galaxy 18' Mark IV, 120 hp Merc I/O-$5900

1966 Starcraft 18' 100 hp 1979 trailer. Excl.-$5900

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Sea Nymph 15' Alum. 15 hp Johnson, 1979-$1400

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DUSKY 26' wide body 1983 Twin 235s. Tuna door, T-Top, encl. V-900 color, 1350 WL, Loran, digital, Dytek. Life raft, winch, full chair, tackle locker 400 gal. fuel. Bristol cond. $42,000. 203-434-8629.

RENKEN 80 17' Bowrider, 120 FWC Volvo, w/Galv. trailer, P/Winch, DF, CB, compass. Garage kept. Mint. 16700. 516-795-4269.

1956 40' MAINE Built Sportfisherman, twin 471 diesels. Documented. Tuna tower, 3 fight chairs, radar, Loran, paper recorder, VHF. Fishing equip.-shark rigs, etc. Built-in color TV, stereo. Canyon capable. Quick sale. $15,000. Recent survey. 957-2657.

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29 TOPAZ 1985, twin Volvo TAMD40B diesels, FWC, AM/FM cassette stereo, batt. charger, bow pulpit, cabin fan, compass, Halon, Y-valve head w/shower, radio box, refrig., washdown, tower lights, T/T, tower w/controls, wipers, canvas encl., tower cover, custom tackle lockers/cabinet seats w/cushions, C-Master V, Horizon Int VHF, Lowrance X-16, Si-Tex T100 radar. Dytek temp, Lowrance 3200 digital, Epirb, Micron bottom paint. ATLANTIC SPORT FISHING, Pt. Pleasant, 201-899-1800.

1981 28 Bertram FB, TMD 40

1969 31 Bertram, Sportfish

1966 31 Bertram Bahia Mar

1976 31 Bertram FB. Great shape

1962 31 Bertram Express Cruiser

1971 42 Hatteras 1981 VT903 Fish equip.

SEA JAC, 728-4220/6627.

1983 SPORTCRAFT 22.4' Walkaround cuddy cabin. Evinrude 175 hp w/SS Prop & spare, 15 hp kicker. Dual batt.-new late '83. Fully equip for bay to offshore fishing for sharks, bluefish, school tuna. All engine instrumentation. Loran C, VHF, Lowrance X-15, digital depthmeter. Penn swivel downriggers, Bennett T/T. Full canvas; CG safety equip. Anchor line, 50# BG tackle & lures/rigs. Outriggers, flying gaff, pro tail rop. Porta-Potti; 5" TV. Portable fishing chair. Sleeps max. 2 adults & 1 child. Great weekend home away from home! Boat in Freeport. High & dry paid for till 4/86. Lost job; must sell! $18,500. 201-326-9662.

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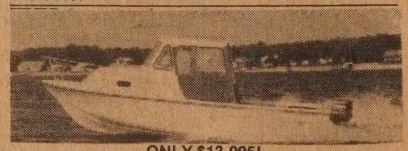

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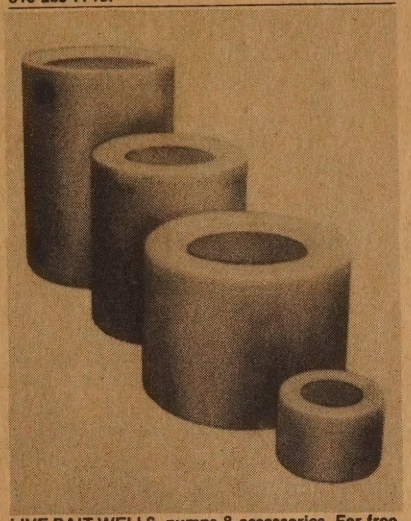

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